

Afghan rebels announce government

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The Afghan guerrilla alliance on Tuesday announced plans for an Islamic coalition cabinet to replace the communist government of President Najib, to promote peace and ensure the safe withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. The rebels vowed that they would not lay down their arms until the Islamic government was established. But Najib reacted to the plan by saying that formation of a government after the Soviet troop withdrawal was an internal affair for Afghans alone. Radio Kabul quoted Najib as saying: "No one can direct the Afghans on this... or give their views." The seven-party Afghan rebel group Islamic unity announced its plan in a statement teleaxed from the Pakistani border city of Peshawar. It calls for creation of a 28-member cabinet to replace Najib's Soviet-supported Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA). U.S. opposes demand, page 8

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Jordan receives Saudi aid payment

AMMAN (Petra) — Finance Minister Hanna Odeh said Tuesday Saudi Arabia had paid the first installment of its annual financial aid to Jordan. Odeh voiced Jordan's appreciation for Saudi Arabia, "which has always been keen on honoring its financial obligations in due course, reflecting the brotherly relations between the two countries."

Rifai to brief Lower House

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai will address the Lower House of Parliament in a closed session, and brief the deputies on the outcome of His Majesty King Hussein's recent tour in European countries and the latest developments on the Arab and international arenas as well as political moves to reach a solution to the Palestine question. The prime minister's meeting with the deputies will follow a regular House session attended by Cabinet members.

Gouled in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — President Hassan Gouled of Djibouti arrived in Baghdad Tuesday for an official visit to Iraq, the Iraqi News Agency reported. It said he was accompanied by a high-level delegation including Foreign Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah but gave no details.

Senior Iraqi official begins Cairo visit

CAIRO (Petra) — Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council, arrived here Tuesday on a visit during which he will discuss with senior Egyptian officials relations between Iraq and Egypt and bilateral cooperation.

Herzog reelected

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli right-wingers, pleased with the performance of Labour-sponsored President Chaim Herzog, helped elect him unopposed Tuesday to a second five-year term in the largely ceremonial post. In a secret parliamentary vote, the right-wing Likud bloc joined Labour members to give Irish-born Herzog 82 of the 102 votes cast.

Ozal to visit Iraq

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, who starts a three-day visit to Iraq Sunday, will go to Baghdad in early April for talks with Iraqi leaders, official Turkish sources said Tuesday. No date has been set for the Iraqi visit, which will take place after a meeting in Baghdad of a joint economic commission, they said.

Arabsat postpones launch of new satellite

DUBAI (R) — The Arab Space Communication and Satellite Organisation (Arabsat) is postponing until 1995 the launch of a new satellite but plans to extend the life of two already in orbit. The group, which has had two satellites in orbit since 1985 with an original seven-year life span, said after its Monday board meeting it would extend their lives by three years. Officials gave finance as the reason for the launch delay and extended use of the existing satellites. Arabsat 1 was launched in February, 1985 and the second four months later.

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Israeli troops bury two Gazans alive

Occupation soldiers, settlers shoot dead 2 13-year-old Arabs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Palestinians, including a 13-year-old girl believed to have been shot by a Jewish settler, were killed by Israeli gunfire in the occupied West Bank early Tuesday.

In the Gaza Strip, two more Palestinians were reported to have been buried alive by Israeli soldiers in a beach near the town of Khan Yunis last week, said Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer.

It was the second case of live burial by soldiers. Earlier this month, four Palestinians from the West Bank village of Kfar Salem said soldiers used a bulldozer to bury them in mud and sand.

The army arrested two soldiers and said more would be detained. The Jerusalem Post said a third soldier who operated the bulldozer had been arrested, but the army would not confirm the report.

In a sworn affidavit, Abdul Ali Massoud, 18, said about 14 soldiers buried him and another Palestinian boy in sand covering their heads at a beach just west of Khan Yunis.

"They tied me to a jeep and dragged me while driving fast. Afterwards they beat me again and buried me in the sand, filling my mouth with sand also," said

the affidavit, which was published in the daily Jerusalem Post.

Langer said she intends to bring the case before the Israeli supreme court.

As snow fell in Jerusalem, meanwhile, police searched Arabs in Palestinian villages on the outskirts of the city.

In Silwan, police forced Arabs to remove their jackets and pull up their sweaters and pant legs in below freezing temperatures as they looked for weapons. The police took identity cards from some Arabs and checked them on a computer in a van.

Rawda Najeeb was shot dead during a demonstration in Baqa Al Sharqiya village, and police detained an Israeli settler, army sources said. Israeli troops killed another demonstrator, 13-year-old Mahmud Numan Hasheyyeh, during a clash in Kafr Al Yamun village.

The deaths brought to at least 63 the number of Palestinians killed during an 11-week anti-Israeli uprising in the West Bank

and Gaza. The Israeli foreign minister, Shimon Peres, heard Palestinians complain of army brutality when he visited the West Bank.

Security forces surrounded Peres, head of the Labour Party, as he edged through the central square of Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, where hundreds of residents jostled for a chance to speak to him.

"Soldiers are coming into our town every night, smashing our cars, beating our women and children," a banana seller told him.

"The army doesn't stop harassing us. They fire at us. They're killing our women and children," said a resident from Balata in the West Bank.

Peres replied: "We've been here for 20 years and there was never trouble. We don't want trouble. We want to respect your national aspirations."

When residents shouted in Arabic, "Salam — peace," Peres answered, "ainshallah — God willing." He shook hands of dozens of residents.

The Palestine Press Service said the girl killed in the latest clashes died in an Israeli hospital after Jewish West Bank settlers opened fire on demonstrators.

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A Palestinian is carried to an ambulance from a Nablus home after Israeli soldiers stormed the house and beat up the man

Yugoslavia denies Nasser's son has political asylum

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Yugoslavia Tuesday officially denied reports that former Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser's eldest son, who faces criminal charges linking him with an underground group, enjoys political asylum in Yugoslavia.

In a statement read to the AP over the telephone, a Yugoslav Foreign Ministry spokesman also denied that Khaled Abdul Nasser was a permanent resident of Belgrade.

"It is true that he periodically visits Yugoslavia like any visitor who has a tourist visa," said the spokesman.

Nasser and 19 others were indicted in Egypt last week in connection with four shooting attacks in Cairo on Israeli and U.S. diplomats and embassy workers between 1984 and 1987. Two Israelis died and six others and two Americans were wounded.

Nasser, 38, and 10 other defendants face a possible death sentence. The remaining nine face prison terms up to life.

Arab reports said Nasser had been living in Belgrade with his family for four months and that Yugoslavia granted him political asylum.

"We want to emphasize that he has never asked for nor was granted political asylum" in Yugoslavia, said the statement.

"He is not engaged in any political activity in Yugoslavia," the spokesman said. Nasser "possesses a multiple-entry tourist visa given to all those who have diplomatic passports. He has an Egyptian diplomatic passport."

Syrians assign lawyers Syria's bar association has assigned lawyers to defend Khaled Abdul Nasser if he is brought to trial in Cairo, officials said.

The Syrian Bar Association condemned the Egyptian prosecutor's move and accused the Cairo government of bowing to U.S. and Israeli pressure in charging Nasser.

"This accusation came in reply to the U.S. administration and the Zionist leaders' demands. It is also part of the attempts to crush the nationalist and patriotic voices in Egypt," it said in a statement.

Nasser, who could face the death sentence if convicted, was quoted by an Egyptian newspaper Sunday as saying he would return to Egypt to stand trial as "I have complete faith in Egyptian justice."

The Syrian press has described the charges against him as an attempt to undermine the image and achievements of his father.

100,000 Armenians stage protest in Yerevan

MOSCOW (AP) — At least 100,000 Armenians gathered in the Soviet republic's capital Tuesday to demand that authorities redress what they consider an injustice dating from the dawn of Soviet rule, Moscow dissidents said.

The reported size of the demonstration in Yerevan would make it one of the largest unofficial gatherings ever reported in the Soviet Union.

Efforts by the Associated Press to reach Yerevan, some 1,800 kilometres south of Moscow, by telephone Tuesday afternoon were not immediately successful.

In a highly unusual step, the government acknowledged "breaching of public order" occurred because of the dispute and said the demands of the demonstrators "contradict the interests of the working people."

Moscow dissidents Alexander Ogorodnikov and Tamara Grigoryants said demonstrators filled the streets around Yerevan's opera house, demanding the reattachment of a small mountainous region to the southern Armenian Republic, which is north of Turkey.



Israeli forces enter Jabel Mukaber south of Jerusalem Monday as part of a show of force on the eve of the visit this week by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz

2 Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon ambush

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Resistance fighters ambushed an Israeli armoured patrol in South Lebanon, killing two soldiers and wounding several others, security sources said Tuesday.

The sources, speaking to the AP on condition they not be identified further, said the patrol of one tank and an armoured personnel carrier was ambushed near the village of Braichit at sundown Monday.

"Both vehicles were raked with rocket-propelled grenades that set off a chain of ammunition explosions in the tank," said one source. "No one could have escaped alive from the burning tank."

The source said there were several other serious casualties in addition to the two fatalities in the ambush, but no specific figures were available.

The source said the resistance fighters were either Shi'ite fundamentalists or pro-Syrian leftists, both of which operate in the area. The source said there was not yet enough information available to be more specific.

Braichit is eight kilometres west of Israel's border in an area where an Israeli "security zone" overlaps with the area of operations of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The scene is about 12 kilometres east of the area where UNIFIL troops and Amal militiamen have been searching for U.S. Marine Lieutenant-Colonel William R. Higgins.

Higgins, 43, of Danville, Kentucky, was kidnapped south of the ancient port of Tyre last Wednesday (see page 2).

Sources quoted by Reuters said Israeli troops were unable to remove the soldiers' badly burned bodies from the tank, which split in two in the blast.

Powerful roadside bombs, often radio-controlled, are frequently used by resistance fighters opposed to the Israeli presence as well as the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia, which patrols the "security zone."

U.S. pledges return of land to Arabs in final settlement

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A U.S. envoy told Palestinian leaders that Washington would press Israel to return the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Arab rule in a final Middle East settlement, according to Palestinians who attended a meeting with the envoy.

They said the envoy, Wat Cluervius, also told them at a private meeting in Arab Jerusalem Saturday the United States believed that creating an independent Palestinian state was a decision to be taken by the Arab World outside the framework of an international peace conference.

Several Palestinians who met Cluervius told Reuters the American pledge to final Arab sovereignty over areas occupied since 1967 was contained in proposals being brought to Israel by Secretary of State George Shultz this week.

Shultz is carrying new proposals on the Middle East in light of the 11-week-old Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza.

Jordan denies reports that Shultz plans shuttle mission

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Tuesday officially denied a report by Radio Monte Carlo and other foreign broadcasts which quoted the French news agency, Agence France Presse, as saying that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz would conduct shuttle trips between Jordan and Israel during his visit to the region next week.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted a spokesman for the Ministry of Information as saying that no Jordanian official had given any statement about Shultz' programme during his visit.

"Our only comment on trip had been welcoming Shultz to Jordan in recognition of the American role in the process of achieving peace," the spokesman was quoted as saying by Petra.

The spokesman said Jordanian officials and Shultz would exchange views "in a positive spirit and keenness on helping the peace efforts and ensuring its continuation so that a just and comprehensive settlement aspired by Jordan and the Arab World can be achieved."

In Cairo, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Tuesday Shultz should come to the region with new ideas on how to solve the Middle East problem.

"He (Shultz) should come with new ideas that conform with the nature of the current phase of developments in the region," Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) quoted Mubarak as telling students in the Suez Canal town of Ismailia.

Shultz is due to fly to the Middle East on a visit Wednesday which will include Israel, the occupied West Bank and Gaza, Jordan, Egypt and possibly Syria and Saudi Arabia.

The move comes amid continued anti-occupation protests in the occupied territories in which Israelis have killed at least 62 Palestinians since early December.

Israeli officials said Shultz was carrying new ideas which include limited "self-rule" for the Palestinians in the occupied territories, a proposal already rejected by Egypt, Jordan and other Arab states and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"The formulas referred to in the (1978) Camp David accords do not conform with the current changes in the region," Mubarak told the Ismailia students Tuesday.

In an informal meeting with journalists in Amman Monday, Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Duda said while Jordan was reserving comment on the new American initiative it welcomed Shultz' visit to the region since it would be an opportunity to exchange ideas and seek avenues to advance the Arab effort for an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

ited Nations Security Council Resolution 242 which means the Arabs will grant Israel peace when Israel hands back the lands it seized in 1967.

"When we spoke of a Palestinian state, Mr. Cluervius replied this should not be part of general negotiations but should be decided among Arabs," he said.

The Reagan plan spoke of Palestinian self-rule in association with Jordan as a best solution for the area.

Cluervius was quoted by several participants as saying "Camp David is dead," a reference to a first round of talks in 1978 between Egypt, Israel and the United States on Palestinian "self-rule," or "autonomy," in the occupied areas.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir vowed Monday to resist pressure to pull out of the territories, saying: "Israel will not adopt a decision to withdraw, even under pressure."

"Where in the world is there a state that would give up its land

(Continued on page 4)

Superpowers brief allies on latest round of Moscow talks

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — The United States and the Soviet Union briefed their respective allies Tuesday on the outcome of talks that American Secretary of State George Shultz had with Kremlin leaders Sunday and Monday.

Shultz flew from Moscow to Brussels early Tuesday for a meeting with officials of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) while his counterpart, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, went to the Czechoslovakian capital of Prague to meet with Warsaw Pact representatives.

At a news conference Monday night in Moscow, Shultz said he would give "a good mark" to his talks on arms control, regional conflicts, human rights and other issues that divide the superpowers.

Shultz said negotiators also have been instructed to try to resolve "some misunderstandings" about the U.S. programme to develop a defence in space against ballistic missiles. The Soviets contend some of the plan-

ned tests for the "Star Wars" missile defence violate the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty.

Assurances against cheating are "an extremely important thing to get nailed down" if a treaty is to be ready by the time U.S. President Ronald Reagan comes to Moscow for his fourth summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Shultz said.

No specific date for Reagan's visit was reached, but Shevardnadze told reporters at a later news conference in Moscow that both sides want the summit in late May or early June.

"You can rest assured the visit will take place," the foreign minister declared at the end of his 75-minute meeting with reporters.

Before leaving Moscow, Shultz had said his two-day negotiating session with Shevardnadze had moved the two sides closer to a strategic arms agreement and a spring summit.

U.S. and Soviet negotiators were directed to prepare within a month three draft agreements for

a treaty to reduce long-range nuclear weapons by 30 to 50 per cent. One will deal with verifying compliance with the cutbacks; a second with elimination or conversion of banned bombers, missiles and submarines and the third with an exchange of information.

In Prague, Shevardnadze briefed the Warsaw Pact allies on the latest U.S.-Soviet talks, a Czechoslovak foreign ministry spokesman said.

Spokesman Dusan Rovensky said the meeting was characterised by a "frank atmosphere and exchange of views" and a "further deepening of the cooperation of the Warsaw Treaty member states in the creation and implementation of their foreign policy."

"The significance of the Prague meeting rests in the fact that it is taking place at the time of the ratification process of the Soviet-U.S. treaty on the elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles, and the intensification of the Soviet-U.S. dialogue," Rovensky said.

Amal reports holding two kidnappers of U.S. officer

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Lebanon's Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia said Tuesday it had arrested two of the kidnappers of American U.N. officer William Higgins.

"A total of six people have been arrested, but only two of them participated in the actual kidnapping of Higgins. We were unable to capture the leader of the kidnappers although we know him by name," the official said. Higgins, a 43-year-old U.S. Marine lieutenant-colonel, was seized last Wednesday by three bearded gunmen near Tyre, 70 kilometres south of Beirut. He headed the Lebanon unit of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO).

Daoud Daoud, Amal's military official in the Tyre area, told Reuters the two men had been arrested shortly after Higgins was abducted. He refused to give their names or the organisation to which they belonged. "They confessed to actual participation in the abduction. We are still holding them and are questioning them," he said. The Organisation of the Oppressed of the World said last Friday it was holding Higgins and accused him of being a spy for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The group issued a statement and a video-tape of Higgins Mon-

day in which he appealed to the United States and Israel to meet the demands of his captors.

The demands included the release of all Arab prisoners from Israeli jails, the withdrawal of Israeli troops from South Lebanon and an end to U.S. "interference" in the Middle East. Washington said Monday it would not negotiate. "We don't make deals with terrorists," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

Immediately after Higgins was seized, Amal militiamen and U.N. peacekeeping troops launched a massive hunt for him in South Lebanon. UNTSO was formed in 1948 to supervise the borders between newly-formed Israel and its Arab neighbours. Daoud said the U.S. officer was still held in South Lebanon. "We arrested a man who was carrying a letter from Beirut to the kidnappers here to move Higgins to Beirut," he said. Daoud said the man was detained last Wednesday night before he had a chance to deliver the message. He believed Higgins was held

in one of two areas: south of the Litani River, which is under Amal's direct control, or in the Nabatiyeh district, 30 kilometres north east of Tyre.

UNRWA workers quit west Beirut

Meanwhile the last five foreigners working in mainly Muslim west Beirut for a United Nations relief agency have moved to the relative safety of the Christian east of Lebanon's capital after the kidnapping of two colleagues.

Spokeswoman Raya Abdul-Malak for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said Tuesday that three Irish, a Swede and a Yugoslav quit their base in the western sector Monday for security reasons. Nine others have already left Lebanon.

Only three of the five, including the head of UNRWA in Lebanon, Swede Per Olaf Hallquist, will remain in east Beirut to run the operation aiding Palestinian refugees, she added. One worker was leaving for vacation while another's contract in Lebanon would expire in three days, Malak said. West Beirut has been the scene of many kidnappings in recent years and 28 foreigners are still missing, most believed held by pro-Iranian fanatics. Two UNRWA workers, Swede Jan Stening, 44, and Norwegian William Joergensen, 57, were abducted on Feb. 5 near Sidon, South Lebanon.

ICRC protests Israel's handling of revolt

TEL AVIV (AP) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has strongly protested Israel's handling of Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, saying at least three Arabs have died as a result of beating by soldiers, a newspaper said Monday.

The daily Jerusalem Post newspaper said the ICRC has appealed to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to "bring to an immediate end these serious acts perpetrated against civilians" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The newspaper quoted ICRC Vice Chairman Maurice Anbert, as saying in a letter handed in recent days to Israel's ICRC representative in Geneva that "thousands of people have been the victims of brutality and grave ill-treatment at the hands of Israeli soldiers."

The Post quoted Anbert as writing that Israel's "unacceptable" measures have been also employed against "innocent victims such as young children, pregnant women and the elderly." The paper quoted the letter as saying the ICRC is "profoundly concerned" at the Israeli measures, which "must adhere to the principle of proportionality" between the recognised responsibility for maintaining law and order and the methods employed to achieve this aim.

"The very large number of victims claimed since the beginning of December testifies that this principle has not been respected by Israeli forces," it quoted the letter as saying.

"The consequences... have been observed by ICRC delegates during their visits to hospitals and detention centres," Anbert was quoted as saying. The newspaper said he claimed that at least three people have died as a result of beatings.

Iran makes arrests over bomb blasts

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian security men have arrested several people in Tehran over two bomb blasts in the capital earlier this month. Iranian News Agency IRNA said Tuesday.

A report received in Cyprus said nearly 40 kilos of explosives had been seized and some of those detained had admitted receiving money from Iraq for their "terrorist" operations.

Car bomb explosions in Tehran on Feb. 16 and 18 injured a total of 12 people, according to earlier IRNA reports.

Memo to Meese says Israel to get \$700m from pipeline deal

WASHINGTON (R) — A secret 1985 memo to U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese described a deal with former Prime Minister Shimon Peres for Israel to receive up to \$700 million over 10 years from an Iraqi oil pipeline project.

"A portion of those funds will go directly to Labour (Israel's Labour Party)...," according to the memo released Monday by lawyers for Meese.

Meese, under investigation to see if he broke any laws in the pipeline deal in connection with payments to foreign officials, told a news conference earlier this month that he did not remember reading the reference to money going directly to the Israeli Labour Party.

Peres, now Israel's foreign minister, has denied any money was ever offered or received. The memo, written by Meese's long-time associate and close friend E. Robert Wallach and the key document in a special prosecutor's probe of the attorney general, showed precisely what had been proposed to Meese and revealed how much Israel would have received from the pipeline deal.

Although the document did not appear to contain any new damaging evidence against Meese, it clearly implicated Peres and could prove embarrassing to Israel.

Under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Law, payments to foreign political parties are prohibited. The law specifically says the attorney general may take legal action to stop a violation when it appears the law may be broken.

The State Department had argued that the diplomatically sensitive memo should be kept secret but the White House concluded it should be released.

Wallach was representing wealthy Swiss oilman Bruce Rappaport, who had been assured Israel would not bomb the pipeline while it was being constructed, according to the memo. The deal later collapsed and the pipeline was abandoned.

"He (Rappaport) confirmed the arrangement with Peres to the effect that Israel will receive somewhere between \$65-70 million a year for ten years out of the conclusion of the project," according to the memo.

"What was also indicated to me, and which would be denied everywhere, is that a portion of those funds will go directly to Labour," according to the memo that was marked for Meese's eyes only.

The memo did not say who would make the payments to Israel. "We all recognise that there would be no progress to this point had he (Rappaport) not been able to obtain the security package which involves the never-to-be-stated but fully understood quid pro quo which helped to produce that commitment by the friendly country (Israel)," the memo said.

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West Bank villagers vow revenge for Israeli killing of Arab youth

KFAR NAAMA, Occupied West Bank (AP) — This hilltop village nestled among the olive groves mourned its second martyr of the 10-week-old Palestinian uprising Monday with a huge march, fiery speeches and a frustrated cry for revenge.

Angry men and sobbing women raised defiant fists and dared the Israelis to come into this community north of Jerusalem, promising that blood would flow in the streets. About 1,500 Arabs from Kfar Naama and surrounding villages walked through a light rain to the grave of Abdullah Al-Ahmad Ataya, 19, shot to death Saturday in nearby Ramallah. Another villager was killed here in January during another demonstration.

"There is a great solidarity in this village," said Aziz Ataya, brother of Abdullah. Adds Mohammad, another brother: "This village of 2,000 people has suffered too much in a short time."

The modest Ataya house was filled with relatives and neighbours late Monday morning before the march, presenting their condolences, passing around coffee and cigarettes and expressing their anger.

"We will all die for the creation of a Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO," said Aziz, with a traditional Arab headress around his neck.

Far back in the procession moving from the Ataya house across the village to the cemetery was an elderly man named Khaled, walking slowly and leaning heavily on his cane. "We have to depend on ourselves to liberate our own land," Khaled said. "I am ready to sacrifice my life for a Palestinian state. It doesn't matter that I am old. There is no difference between a one-month-old infant and a 100-year-old man."

Past the stone and cinder-block houses, down the road that shortly would be renamed Street of the Uprising's Martyrs, the crowd swelled. Banners and Palestinian flags sprouted. Children too young to understand trailed along behind their mothers.

The women, in fact, seemed to be the most angry of all. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir are the prime targets. "America is the head of the serpent," they chant. "Shamir, this is our homeland. We are here."

At the cemetery, Ataya's grave is marked by a stone decorated with a Palestinian flag. Here, the bitterness swells, the tears flow. The frustration is vented. The outrage explodes.

"From this grave we condemn the Shultz visit and the United States," a speaker at the cemetery shouts to the encircling crowd. "These masses," he says, gesturing to the villagers, "are led by the PLO."

Aziz picks up a stone and waves it. "We have only stones," he shouts emotionally. "This is the will of God that we revolt against Israel by using stones. We educate our children to love martyrdom."

The last of a half dozen speakers is a woman, who issues a defiant challenge to the Israeli army. "We will not allow any Israelis in this village," she cries. "If they come, the blood will flow."

Today, there was no violence. There were no Israeli soldiers. But they will come, said a young villager in the crowd, one night soon, searching houses, looking for the leaders of the demonstration, and making arrests.

U.N. human rights body condemns Israel

GENEVA (R) — The United Nations Commission on Human Rights Monday passed a resolution condemning Israel for "brutal practices and crimes of genocide" in the occupied Arab territories. The resolution, which was passed by the 43-member commission, was opposed by the United States as "unbalanced and unfair."

Another "motion," which the U.S. argued fell outside the commission's competence, condemned increased recruitment, financing, training, support and use of mercenaries to destabilise and overthrow governments in Africa, Latin America and other developing countries.

A further resolution urged Morocco and Polisario guerrillas to negotiate a ceasefire in a 12-year-old conflict over the Western Sahara to prepare the way for a referendum.

A resolution calling on Soviet troops to quit Afghanistan, where they have been fighting anti-government rebels since 1979, was approved by 31 votes to five against with six abstentions.

TV & RADIO

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10:00	Morning 10:30 Newsline
10:30	Morning 10:40 News 10:50
11:00	Focus 11:30 Special English News & Features 11:40 News 11:50
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HOME BRIEFS

UPPER HOUSE: The Parliament's Upper House Legal Committee Tuesday met under the chairmanship of the House's Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and discussed a number of draft laws referred to it from the government. The draft laws include revised Postal Saving Fund Law, revised Press and Publications Law and its provisional law for the year 1978, and revised antiquities law. The meeting was attended by a number of cabinet ministers.

LOWER HOUSE: Lower House Legal Committee Tuesday discussed the provisional law of the Water Authority and the revised Water Authority of Jordan Law for 1988. The House's Financial Committee also met Tuesday and discussed the accounting bureau report for the year 1986. The meeting was attended by the Bureau's Director Hashem Sabbagh and the Prime Minister's advisor Fawwaz Abu Al Ghanam.

CABLE TO KING: Participants in a regional medical conference, which concluded its meetings here last week, sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein, thanking him for hosting the conference and for patronising the conference. Participants wished King Hussein every success to achieve Arab goals and aspirations.

BANK OFFICIAL: A Jordanian delegation, headed by Abdul Qader Dweik, senior Housing Bank official Tuesday left for the United Arab Emirates to take part in a housing investment event to be held in Dubai on Saturday. The delegation comprises representatives of 35 real estate companies and institutions from both the public and private sectors in Jordan.

SPECIAL STAMP: Ministry of Transport and Communications has decided to issue a special stamp marking the Arab basketball championship. The new stamp which will be in three denominations, will be issued on March 1 marking the 32nd anniversary of Arabising the Jordanian Armed Forces.

WORK CAMP: Yarmouk University will hold a voluntary work camp, cycling competition, football matches and artistic performances on the 21st anniversary of Karamah battle, which falls on March 21. These activities will take place in South Shouneh.

UNIVERSITY TIES: Cooperation between British Universities and Yarmouk University was discussed at a meeting here Tuesday between Yarmouk University President Kamel Ajlouni and a delegation representing higher education in the United Kingdom. Ajlouni briefed the visitors on the development of the university and its programmes in carrying out research work and post graduate studies. Deans of various faculties were present at the meeting.

AFRA SPRINGS: A committee entrusted with developing the Afra mineral springs near Tafleh has embarked on preliminary plans for carrying out the spa project at Afra. Tafleh Governor Aref Irshad said that the committee will, as of next year, embark on construction work to build a health clinic, to lay water networks and set up a police station. He said that several municipalities in Tafleh district have requested the Ministry of Tourism to contribute towards bringing about this project. One of these municipalities he said has offered JD 3,000 as an initial payment for the project.

SOVIET TEAM: A delegation from the Soviet General Public Services Union will arrive in Amman on April 12 on an official week-long visit to Jordan. During the visit, which is at the invitation of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, the delegation will hold meetings with union members to discuss means of bolstering bilateral cooperation in labour-related fields.

CHEST PAINS: "Chest Pains" is the title of a seminar which the Islamic Hospital in Amman is organising Wednesday. Two cardiologists Sakeb Najjar and Nayef Al Dibs will address the seminar which will be held at 7:30 p.m.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Jordan's National Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) announced the availability of scholarships for study in the Soviet Union during the next academic year. The scholarships cover such specialisations as telecommunications and radio engineering, printing technology, journalism and film production. Students wishing to benefit from these scholarships can obtain the necessary application forms from the Ministry of Education.

Jordan hit by cold polar front

AMMAN — Heavy rains, hail and snow continued falling in Jordan Tuesday, and the Meteorology Department expected more rain to fall in most regions and snow on high and hilly areas of the country.

The rain and snow closed a number of roads in the Kingdom and the Public Security Department (PSD) cautioned drivers and motorists to drive with extra care on hilly roads where visibility is poor due to a heavy blanket of fog.

A PSD announcement said that work was going on for opening roads blocked by snow. Among roads partially closed in the Amman region were those leading west and north west towards Abu Nuseir, Sweileh, Safout, Jubeiha, Naour and Wadi Seer.

In Irbid governorate, civil de-

fence teams were able to re-open roads for traffic, especially those linking Irbid with Arahaba, Zobia, and Hamak.

Rescue and emergency operations in Irbid governorate were also involved in opening roads in the Ajloun district, one of the highest regions in Jordan.

In Salt, hail, rains and snow fell in most regions and civil defence services took necessary precautions to deal with any eventuality.

Salt municipality technical departments were placed on alert for calls to offer assistance and to reopen culverts, canals and roads.

The director of Agricultural Department in Salt Abdul Majid Abu Rumman said that a total of 610 mm of rain has so far fallen in Salt, thus exceeding the annual

average of 500 mm.

In Jerash, more rain and snow fell Tuesday in most regions blocking roads on the hills, but civil defence teams were placed on alert for any emergency.

Meteorology Department Director General Ali Abanda said Jordan will remain under the effect of the cold polar front, and several fronts will affect the country over the coming 24 hours, bringing in more snow on areas 700 metres above sea level.

Abanda said that regions 1,000 metres above sea level like Ajloun, Balqa, Karak, Al Sharah and Ras Al Nagab will have larger amounts of snow.

He warned that the snow will cause flooding in the low-lying regions and will cause poor visibility in the hilly regions.

Hanania opens nursing conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Second Jordanian Nursing Conference on research and development was opened here Tuesday by National Medical Institution (NMI) Director General Dr. Daoud Hanania.

Participants in the three-day conference held at the Al Hussein Medical Centre in Amman, include nurses from different

medical organisations and hospitals in the Kingdom.

In an address to the opening session Hanania underlined the nursing aspect in the medical profession in general and also outlined the development of the Royal Medical Services.

Hanania also reviewed the heart transplant operations car-

ried out at the centre and the modern nursing facilities at the disposal of the Royal Medical Services.

The participants will discuss and review books, publications and modern equipment used in the nursing profession and examine slides which manifest modern developments in this field.

Ureikat leaves for Riyadh

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat left Amman Tuesday for Riyadh to take part in a meeting of a pan-Arab higher steering committee on promoting Arab children's life.

The meeting, due to open Wednesday, is attended by ministers of social development in Arab countries at the invitation of Saudi Arabia's Prince Talal Ibn Abdul Aziz, President of Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Agencies AGFUND.

In a statement before his departure, Ureikat said that the committee will discuss a general plan for improving the condition, standard and development of Arab children as prepared by an Arab League team.

"Jordan will play a pioneering role in the implementation of the pan-Arab project through providing its skilled manpower and expertise," the minister said.

Euro-Arab group backs international conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayed received Tuesday a statement by the Executive Committee of the Euro-Arab Cooperation

which called for the convening of an international peace conference to tackle the Palestinian problem. Following is the text of the statement.

At this historic turning point in the struggle for Palestinian freedom the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation expresses its solidarity with all those who are making sacrifices in the uprising for the liberation of the occupied territories and reaffirms its support for the Palestinian right to national self-determination.

The present situation confirms the association's prediction over many years that no repression, however harsh, can maintain indefinitely Israel's occupation of Palestinian and other Arab lands.

After hearing a report from the secretary-general who has just returned from a visit to Jerusalem and the West Bank, the associa-

tion decided to send a delegation in order to inform national parliaments and the European Parliament about the situation.

The Executive Committee condemned Israel's defiance of international law, including the Geneva Conventions, and of Security Council resolutions. They expressed profound indignation at military brutality and the deaths which have resulted, arbitrary expulsions and arrests, administrative detention and economic blockades in the occupied territories, as well as threats to close Hebrew and Arab newspapers in Israel.

In this situation it becomes more urgent than ever that an international conference should be convened under U.N. auspices with the participation of all those concerned including the PLO. They have already expressed this point of view personally to Claude Cheysson of the European Commission and our national sections will have similar personal contacts with their respective governments.

Masri delivers King's message to N. Yemeni leader

Jordan totally rejects partial solutions to Mideast problem

SANAA (Petra) — North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh Tuesday received a message from His Majesty King Hussein dealing with current Arab affairs, the Middle East situation and the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territory.

The message was delivered to the president here by Foreign Minister Taber Al Masri, who is leading Jordan's side to the Joint Jordanian-North Yemeni Higher Committee meetings which started on Monday.

After delivering the message to the president, Masri said, King Hussein stressed Jordan's total rejection of any partial or unilateral solutions of the Middle East question, and any moves designed to abort the Palestinian people's uprising. "Jordan will maintain its drive to find a just and comprehensive solution for the Palestine problem, through an international Middle East peace conference."

He said that during his meeting with president Saleh, a general assessment of the situation in the Middle East region was made, and the resolutions of the seven-member Arab Committee entrusted with the task of canvassing support for the Palestinian steadfastness and uprising.

Masri described his meeting with the president as fruitful and

constructive and that both sides views were identical on all issues discussed.

He said that Jordanian-North Yemeni consultations and contacts will continue to serve the interests of the people of Jordan and North Yemen in all fields. The meeting was attended by Jordan's ambassador to Sanaa, Saad Bataineh and North Yemen's Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani.

North Yemen's Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani earlier received Masri and discussed with him Jordanian-North Yemeni cooperation, and means of bolstering bilateral relations in economic, technical, cultural and educational fields.

On Monday evening, Iryani and Masri held talks on the Middle East question and the international conference as well as the current uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Later Monday, Masri and Iryani accompanied by their two delegations resumed meetings on means of promoting bilateral

cooperation in trade, economic, scientific and health affairs.

The Joint Jordanian-North Yemeni Higher Committee was formed in 1985 during King Hussein's visit to North Yemen.

Masri's visit to Sanaa was preceded by a visit to the North Yemeni capital by a Jordanian technical committee, seeking to explore areas where skilled Jordanians can be employed, especially in educational, medical and engineering fields.

Side talks

Apart from Masri's meetings, several members of his delegation held side talks with North Yemeni officials, discussing various aspects of bilateral cooperation.

Secretary-General of the Ministry of Planning Ziyad Fariz met with the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Planning in Yemen Muhsen Ali Hamadani, to discuss the implementation of a technical programme signed by the two countries, and financing this programme through assistance from regional and international organisations.

Agreement was reached whereby the Yemeni side will hold contacts for ensuring funds to carry out projects included in this programme.

Discussion at the meeting also covered exchange in matters re-

lated to the implementation of development plans in either country and cooperation in manpower training.

The North Yemeni Minister of Interior Hussein Barakat received in Sanaa the Director of Nationality Department at the Jordanian Ministry of Interior, Salameh Hammad, for a discussion on cooperation in security affairs and personnel training.

Also in Sanaa, the Vice President of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Dr. Arafat Tamimi discussed with North Yemeni Ministry of Industry and Trade Under-Secretary Qa'id Harouri cooperation between the two sides in adopting unified standards and specifications and training Yemeni personnel in quality control, laboratory work and other related fields.

Tamimi also met with North Yemeni Ministry of Health Under-Secretary Ali Ismail for discussion on RSS-North Yemeni cooperation in the field of maintaining medical equipment at hospitals.

Tamimi later met with the director of the North Yemeni cement establishment to offer RSS's expertise in the use of low-cost primary materials in housing projects and construction.

Amman municipality wins award

DOHA (Petra) — Greater Amman Municipality has won a competition organised by the Arab Cities Organisation (ACO) for designing and carrying out the SOS Children's Village in Tareq, west of the capital, Amman.

A ceremony for the distribution of awards was held under the patronage of Qatar's ruler and the first prize was handed to Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh who is now on a visit to Qatar.

Following the ceremony, Rawabdeh held talks with the mayor of Doha and senior municipal officials.

Sharif: Arabs should not be first to reject U.S. proposal

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab side should not be the first to reject the new American proposals for reactivating the Middle East peace process, a prominent Jordanian journalist and analyst said here Tuesday.

Mahmoud Al Sharif, editor of Al Dustour "newspaper", said although he believes the new American initiative was mainly aimed at "getting Israel out of its present mess" (in the light of the continuing Palestinian anti-occupation uprising), the Arabs should seriously study the American proposal.

Addressing a Rotary Club luncheon in Jordan, Sharif said that though Jordan and the PLO have serious reservations over the American proposals for "a transitional arrangement" leading to eventual "self-rule" in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, U.S. Secretary of State

George Shultz "appears determined to go ahead with his initiative."

Sharif described the American initiative as a "compromise formula" that does not fully satisfy either side, but which cannot be ignored.

He pointed out that the U.S. initiative contained several ambiguous points related to the proposed international conference's modalities and authority, and these remain to be clarified.

He explained that the U.S. insisted that self-rule should not impede an ensuing international conference to discuss the implementation of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, after the forthcoming Israeli elections in November.

He said that Jordan was adopting the wait-and-see approach vis-a-vis the American initiative and that the Kingdom was sounding out Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation on a joint response to Washington's move.

Jordanian firm develops software for contractors

CILCON — Civil Construction Company, the Jordanian building contractor, has recently developed in-house a new software back-up to the widely known CPM programme facility which enables the general contractor to programme and update his schedule of work for about 2000 activities. The new software, which CILCON calls PRE-CPM, is an integrated management system based on the modern practices of international companies that use computer programming for manufacturing of products like cars and equipment.

The basic concept of the PRE-CPM is that it allows the contractor through the MRM and LRM systems (Material and Labour Resources Management) to track subcontractors/suppliers' compliance with their agreed programmes — through numerous but

small network programmes designed for each of the foreign (or local) manufacturers. CILCON actually sets the Management System for the European companies that subcontracted important work for one of its jobs in Jordan by constraining the CPM network programme of the expatriate firms with the preferred start of each activity in the overall CPM programme of CILCON for the whole project.

CILCON believes that this rather novel system which is based on drawing from the technological advances of management systems of the larger corporations in the world, can work very effectively on small scale jobs whether in construction or in any other activity (such as industry) requiring careful and continuous tuning of planning and management systems.

Ajlouni meets Greek, W. German envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni met here Monday with Greek Ambassador to Jordan Hellen Vellidis to discuss the implementation of a Greek-Jordanian tourism cooperation agreement.

They also discussed prospects for more Greek-Jordanian exchanges of expertise and training of personnel.

Ajlouni later met with West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels to discuss similar issues.

They discussed the prospect of increasing German tourist group visits to Jordan and more German technical and hotel management assistance to the Kingdom. In another development, Ajlouni met here Tuesday with the director general and the members of the board of the Jordanian-Egyptian Holding Company to discuss the implementation of tourist projects by Egypt and Jordan.

Killer gets death sentence

AMMAN — The criminal court has passed a death sentence on 24-year-old Munir Shaqfeh for killing his father-in-law and attempting to kill his wife Anahid.

A report in the Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that Anahid and Munir who were married two years ago had a very difficult life, which prompted the wife to leave her home and take refuge in her father's home at Wihdat, in the eastern districts of Amman.

Munir, unable to convince his wife to return home, decided to kill her father, Ahmad and take revenge on him for keeping Anahid at his home.

Fast food outlets face problems with French fries

Forget the beef! Where are the fries

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Fast food lovers in Jordan are faced with a most disheartening problem: No French fries to go with their hamburgers, steak and sandwiches. Apparently locally produced frozen French fries are sucking the frying pans dry of oil and Jordan has stopped importing potatoes from abroad.

For a month now, the only available frozen potatoes have been locally produced, and according to restaurant owners, "the potatoes absorb all the oil in the frying pan and sometimes they melt and disappear." That is apart from the fact that the French fries come out "soggy with oil, tasteless, costly (they absorb more oil), and perhaps unhealthy."

According to an informed farmer, "there are different varieties of potatoes and not all of them are good for frying." He said that "there is a variety which absorbs oil and restaurant owners would not know the difference, and are not expected to."

The people who are expected to know this are the owners of the local factory which packages frozen potatoes for frying, but according to a source close to the factory, "the owners are not farmers, and would not know."

The factory in question is described by the source as a "workshop, and everything is hand made." Because the factory depends on people, rather than machines, to slice the potatoes, output is small (around 500-600 kilos a day) and the quality is low.

According to one of the factory owners, Mazen Shorbaji, the "quality of the French fries is definitely below standard," but he explained that the quality of the potatoes they used "were not up to the quality we needed."

According to Shorbaji, the factory contracted an established potato distributor for 200 tons of frying quality potatoes. After



"Lately our French fries have been soggy, tasteless, costly and perhaps unhealthy"

processing them they found out that the potatoes were mixed with other varieties and "that is why they were not coming out as expected."

"Out of the 200 tons we received, we later discovered that only 30 tons were of the quality we wanted, but by then it was too late," added Shorbaji.

The capacity of production at the factory is a minimum of 2 tons and a maximum of 8 tons per day, but Shorbaji said, "now we are only producing around 500-700 kilos a day, because we are in the preliminary stages of production and because of the low quality potatoes we received." Shorbaji added "now we are trying to be more careful."

"The factory has locally made equipment and everything is automatic except for packaging, which is done manually for the time being," Shorbaji said that they cannot find the type of packaging machine they need in Jordan,

so they want to bring one from abroad.

"We have received a good variety of potatoes for frying now, and we will start producing them on Saturday," Shorbaji said.

The question remains: Why did we stop importing French fries if we are still unable to produce equally or nearly equally good products?

According to Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) Director General Ghazi Abu Hassan, "this is a policy from the Ministry of Agriculture. We used to import potatoes but now we have reached self-sufficiency, and we are exporting potatoes."

According to the terms of an agreement signed by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Supply and JAMPCO, JAMPCO is the sole party allowed to import potatoes, and then only when there is a shortage in Jordan.

According to an informed gov-

ernment source, "JAMPCO wrote a letter to the Ministry of Supply telling them that since Jordan has reached self-sufficiency in planting and producing potatoes, there was no need to import frozen French fries." He added that this move apparently aimed to protect local industry.

When contacted by the Jordan Times about the shortage of frozen potatoes and restaurant owners' complaints about the quality of available frozen French fries, Abu Hassan said "there are enough potatoes in the market, tell them to buy potatoes, peel them and then fry them."

Yet, we revert to the argument that restaurant owners would not know the difference between the potatoes, and would not know which ones are best for frying.

Then again, according to a potato farmer, "all the different varieties of potatoes in the world are grown locally and are available."

Production of high quality petroleum products from Al Lajjun oil shale

AMMAN — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) has announced that pilot plant tests were conducted recently on a 200-tonne oil shale sample from Al Lajjun at the Lurgi pilot plants and research centre in Frankfurt.

NRA stated that full utilisation of the energy contained in the oil shale has been achieved. Products of the retorting tests were middle oil, light oil, and naphtha. There was no heavy oil fraction. In addition, valuable sulphur was obtained as a by-product.

Following the retorting test, direct combustion of the residual

carbon in the spent shale was quite successful; the carbon was combusted to less than 0.1 per cent in the ash using the Circulating Fluidised Bed (CFB) process to generate electricity.

The upgrading test of the shale oil in a single hydrotreating step resulted in lowering the sulphur content of the oil to less than 0.05 per cent and considerably increasing diesel, kerosene, and naphtha fractions.

The German government and the German Klockner-Lurgi consortium have contributed half of the costs for the tests. In addition,

the German government financed hydrogeological studies of the Al Lajjun area which proved the availability of the adequate groundwater supply in the project area.

On the basis of such encouraging results, and pending availability of funds, NRA intends to implement a full-fledged feasibility of a retorting complex which may be capable of producing 50,000 bbl/day, 350 MW electricity (of which 215 MW would be fed to the National Grid), and 350,000 tonnes of pure sulphur per year.

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GUEST COLUMN

By Dr. Ahmad Majdoubeh

University education: Impediments to effective teaching (Part I)

OVER the past decade, university education in Jordan has developed quite remarkably. Not only have the institutions themselves multiplied in number and expanded in size, but they have also, more important, grown in function and role. The progress has been slow and somewhat invisible, but it has also been steady and forceful. The impact, much of which requires some time and distance to measure effectively, has been positive and substantial. For instance, no one can deny or even underestimate the universities' great contribution (through teaching, through specialised seminars and symposia, through community-service programmes, through publications, etc.) to the development of the Jordanian society and of many fraternal societies in the region. Furthermore, Jordan University and Yarmouk, in particular, have been major suppliers of specialists in various fundamental fields. And there are other examples.

Naturally, there have been obstacles. Not long ago, it was a real challenge for the instructor at Yarmouk to even make himself heard in the lecture hall: The distracting scream of labourers and the unpleasant noise of engines, hammers, and shovels at adjacent work sites made class communication extremely difficult. The problems are numerous and formidable, and some seem eternal. Till this day, we lack space, funds, rich libraries, able administrators, experienced registrars, effective study plans, coordination, a clear sense of direction, etc. Such problems, no matter how unthreatening or trivial they might appear, have undoubtedly affected, and still do, the course of university education negatively. Undeniably, our universities have been fairly serious and conscientious in pinpointing and addressing problems, even though they have tended at times to let things drift. My faith in their ability to respond to challenges promptly and my acute awareness of the sensitivity and critical nature of the present times, compel me to raise an issue which, I believe, causes some serious concern and calls for immediate attention: Namely, the question of teaching.

Of course, we do teach; and, of course, we do recognise the centrality of teaching. In fact, we never cease to underscore its importance: In our by-laws, in staff meetings, in orientation speeches, in anniversary celebrations, in conferences, in research papers, and in the deep recesses of our souls. There are skeptics among us, to be sure — people who see little value in the activity. Yet, the majority fully sees. Even though very few of those directly involved in the process can articulate, in precise and coherent terms, why the calling is significant, the feeling is strongly there. Additionally, there are in our four universities people who are extremely, and truly, devoted to the profession. They work hard and in silence, and they live up to the standards admirably. The

contribution of these unknown soldiers must not be undercut.

Nevertheless, and on the whole, I feel that we have not, honestly and frankly, been giving teaching our best. We could do much more than we are presently doing. Our job is good, but it is not outstanding. Compared with the potential we have, our performance looks in fact truly meagre. Most faculty members at our universities are highly qualified, or at least they should be so: They had gone to very good schools, they know their subject, they keep up (through conferences and research) with the latest in the field, they are intelligent. The fault is obviously in the effort, not the ability.

We seem to be busy chasing so many dreams, pursuing so many hopes, and achieving so many goals, that we have, unfortunately, neglected — deliberately or inadvertently — the most essential of all university functions. Most either take teaching for granted or, worse, place it second or third on their list of priorities. This is really sad, for the price will be costly. The blame lies mainly on the individual faculty member, of course, for he/she has not only been given a great deal of freedom and confidence, but also of support — moral, financial, and so on. The institution, however, is not entirely innocent.

One can think of several impediments to effective teaching. However, I would like to focus on two here, first because they are, in my opinion, the most crucial at this stage and secondly because they might not seem so problematic to many. The first is related to scholarship, the second to the perverse competition for positions.

Normally, research complements teaching. In most higher-education institutions in the world, professors are not only encouraged to conduct advanced studies within the realm of their specialisation and interest, but also required to do so. The benefits are manifold. For one thing, academic research enables the individual to remain in touch with the latest developments in the field. For another, it keeps him intellectually challenged. Unless one teaches graduate students, one does not derive much mental stimulation from the course material. This is especially true in our own case, where most teach undergraduates. Research, moreover, ought to reflect positively on class interaction. A professor who explores new ideas and reads new material is mostly likely to inject life and vitality into his lectures.

At our universities, research is, in some cases, clearly a blessing. There are many faculty members whose interest in it is genuine, whose performance is excellent, and most important, who are able either to bring it to bear on teaching or, at least, to accommodate both activities (scholarship and research), without doing damage to either. This is not only desirable but also essential. However, there

are other faculty members (I would say about half of the total population) who either fail to strike a balance (even though the intention is there) or, for reasons which I shall mention, deliberately subordinate one activity to the other. In this latter instance, research becomes counterproductive, and even a curse.

Our university professors engage in academic scholarship for a variety of reasons, but the major motivation for most is promotion. To move up in the hierarchy, one needs to publish a certain number of studies. In theory, the requirements — four to five original essays for each rank — are sensible, and everybody is expected to meet them with little difficulty. To write one essay a year is not much to ask. In practice, however, the question is entirely different. First, while four or five essays are the bare minimum, the promotion committee usually expects (and often actually demands) at least an extra couple or more articles. Secondly, some of the studies might be of mediocre quality, and thus more is asked for. Thirdly, topics overlap and interconnect. Depending on the qualifications and intentions of the evaluating reader, the five or six submitted essays might count as three, three and a half, four, or five.

Add to this, the following facts: That publishing is a lengthy process; that some scholars get either greedy or pretentious; that a great deal of hollow prestige goes with research in our society; that many people think of scholarship the way we think of collecting stamps or medals, nice things to show to people; that most studies are of poor quality; that if research were not tied to promotion, many would rather be shooting pool; that we lack adequate research facilities; that we teach four courses each semester (a heavy load indeed); and, above all, that one's performance in teaching, no matter how good or poor, does not influence promotion.

The result is obvious: Those of us who take promotion seriously (and the vast majority does) and those who want it badly (and many do) will end up, inevitably and understandably, paying more attention to research than to teaching. In other words, teaching gets sacrificed — either slightly or brutally, depending on the individual case. The feeling among our colleagues these days is that research is far more rewarding than teaching, and therefore who cares about the latter. The dilemma of scholarship versus instruction is quite real at our schools.

Dr. Majdoubeh is on the Faculty of the English Language Department of the Yarmouk University. Part 2 of this article appears next Wednesday.

Punishing the innocent?

ADMITTEDLY, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has a case over the kidnapping of two of its officials in Lebanon, but one would not have expected the agency to take it out on the innocent thousands of refugees who depend on it for services. By the same token, the perpetrators of the kidnapping should also have realised that the actual people who would suffer in the end are the people who stand in need of real help. No-one could have missed the unmistakable signs in the gradual UNRWA moves to scale down its operations in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon after the abduction, but Sunday's announcement of drastic reductions in its services in the south clearly cited the non-availability of foreign staff as the main reason behind the move. While few could blame the agency for taking such an attitude, one would have thought UNRWA decision-makers would also have taken into consideration the adverse effects of its decision on the dozens of thousands of Palestinian refugees before moving in such a direction. In essence, while the kidnappers, whoever they are, of the two Scandinavian officers of UNRWA have dealt a severe blow to the Palestinians living in the refugee camps of Lebanon, UNRWA should not react by using food and medical services as a weapon to obtain the release of the kidnap victims. It would also appear that depriving the Palestinians of much needed help to recover from the effects of the three long years of the "camps war" with the Lebanese Amal militia was one of the goals of the kidnappers. By taking the decision as it did to reduce its operations, UNRWA may have played right into their hands.

We could only hope that the U.N. agency, which has been doing an excellent job of shouldering the responsibilities assigned to it, will take into consideration the repercussions of its decision on the innocent refugees, and reach the conclusion that depriving the Palestinians of help is not the right answer to the kidnap crisis. Perhaps there is no right answer to the despicable crime; but to victimise the already victimised Palestinian civilians in the camps, is not a very encouraging repercussion of the affair.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: World minus U.S. condemn Israel

APART from the United States, the whole world has denounced the Israeli inhuman practices in the occupied Arab lands as a show of hatred and a real lust for torture and killing. In the United States, many newspapers could not conceal their horror over the situation in the Arab territories and the consequences of the application of the iron-fist policy against the Arab population. They echoed the world's horror over the scenes of killing and torture and beating committed by the Israeli troops and the Zionist settlers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Condemnation of Israel's atrocities came from the leader of the British Labour Party Neil Kinnock, the Soviet ambassador in Cairo, the Human Rights Commission, the Spanish Parliament and many other organisations and individuals in addition to world governments. We hope that organisations which are still indifferent to the events in the occupied lands will now move to add their voices to those who already expressed their condemnation of Israel's behaviour. We also hope that the international community will make moves towards finding a real and lasting solution for the Palestine problem and support right and justice. The past few weeks had remained the world that what is going on in the Arab territory of Palestine is a real rebellion against the Zionist machine of terrorism and oppression and the starvation of the Palestinian refugees in the camps. Let us hope that real action is taken now for enabling the Palestinians to regain their rights and their homeland.

Al Dustour: Israel continues rejecting peace

AS the time approaches for U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's visit to the Middle East, the world is witnessing an escalation of violence in the Israeli-held Arab lands as a result of the current uprising and Israel's retaliatory measures. But the Israelis are still adamant in their position and they still refuse the idea of granting the Palestinian people their legitimate rights, and continue to adhere to the Camp David accord and the autonomy rule formula which has been rejected by the Arab Nation. Both sides in the present Israeli coalition are collaborating in the process of subduing the Palestinian people, despite their contradictory statements which they issue from time to time simply for gaining votes in the coming elections. Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin is leading the campaign of terror and torture against the Arabs, in implementation of the iron-fist policy laid down by his Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and the Likud party. Both sides are showing increasing rejection of all bids for a lasting peace. In the light of these developments and in view of the situation one cannot expect much from Shultz's coming visit to the area. There is nothing in Israel's actions or statements that indicate that Shultz will be able to change the situation. This concept is strengthened in the light of Shamir's latest statement in which he said the U.S. cannot and will not exercise any form of economic or diplomatic pressure on Tel Aviv to change its position.

Sawt Al Shaab: Jordan intensifies pan-Arab drive

JORDAN'S diplomatic moves spearheaded by His Majesty King Hussein have acquired added importance with Prime Minister Zaid Rifa'i's visits to Arab capitals, expounding these moves and reaffirming Jordan's firm stands with regard to Arab causes. The visits aim at helping the Arabs to maintain the momentum of the November Amman summit which crystallised the Arab Nation's political stand and corroborated the Arab countries' march towards peace through an international conference. The idea of the conference has been gaining increasing support and backing from world nations which find Israel's intransigence impossible, and which condemned the Israeli inhuman practices against the Arab people. The Jordanian moves are aimed therefore to foil any Israeli attempts to abort the march towards peace and are designed to bring about a change in the political stand of the U.S. which had been encouraging Israel to maintain its present policies. The Jordanian moves, coming on the eye of a visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz aim also at unifying the Arab stands with regard to any American initiative and ideas towards the Middle East crisis.

The following article is reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post.

By Charles Hoffman

EVEN Israelis who oppose the indiscriminate use of brute force to quell the protests in the occupied territories may be ranked when a Jewish leader abroad denounces this practice from the safety of diaspora. Thus the recent statements by Rabbi Alexander Schindler, denouncing the beating of demonstrators as immoral, were received with mixed feelings by Labour Party figures normally close to the American Reform leader.

These attitudes were expressed by Yehiel Leket, head of the Labour Zionist Movement, when he introduced Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, at a Labour gathering in Jerusalem last week.

For some time now, Leket said, the Labour Party "has recognised the right of diaspora Jews to express their opinions openly. That was easy. But when strong statements are made that make us uncomfortable — and by one of our friends — then questions are naturally raised about the limits of dissent."

Schindler had a ready answer for this: "I don't serve you when I tell you what you want to hear. I owe you my own views. I speak out of love for Israel, which occasionally demands a reproach concerning a particular policy at a particular time."

"Too many people, in the U.S. as well as Israel, confuse dissent with disloyalty. I reject the view that American Jews who speak out are doing something treasonable."

In speaking out, I was concerned about the credibility of the American Jewish community's efforts to help Israel. American Jews have always been in the vanguard of the struggle for social justice. People asked us how we could keep quiet."

In less than a week, Schindler said, the Shultz initiative is bound to fail, said Sari Nusseibeh, a philosophy professor at Birzeit University and one of six Arabs initially designated by the PLO to meet with Shultz.

Gaza city lawyer Fayer Abu Rahne, another Palestinian on the list, said: "We made various efforts to convince the PLO. So far nothing has worked."

"I personally believe it is worth meeting with Shultz. But there will be no meeting unless the PLO sanctions it," he said.

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The leadership warned Palestinians not to take part "in such suspicious schemes against our people" and called for a display of "national courage" during the Shultz visit.

Said Kanaan, a Nabulus businessman U.S. officials also asked to meet with Shultz, said he told the Americans the PLO would not agree to a meeting unless it was held outside — in Cairo or Amman, and included Palestinians from abroad.

He said U.S. officials told him such a meeting was possible but that Shultz was too busy to do it on this trip. "I am trying to get a written promise or something (from the Americans) that there would be a meeting within, say, a month between Mr. Shultz and a joint delegation including Palestinians from abroad," Kanaan said.

He said he would convey such a promise to the PLO leadership to try to convince Arafat to allow a Palestinian delegation to meet with Shultz. "I'm trying my best, I still believe we should meet. We won't lose anything by talking to Mr. Shultz. But I'm not optimistic," Kanaan said.

"Our problem is the Americans and the Israelis are trying to divide us between the Palestinians inside the territories and those outside. They can't treat us separately," Kanaan

Schindler insisted that he had never objected to the need to restore order, but only to the means used. "I reacted principally to the policy enacted by Israel's leaders of using force and beatings."

"Some people may say that such talk is simply a rabbi's preaching," he said, dismissing this claim by recalling his own combat record in World War II. "I was not a chaplain, I was a ski trooper. We had to face city fighting from street to street, and I was wounded. One has a right to shoot at an armed soldier, and even at demonstrators if they endanger your life."

"But using beatings or shooting at people to put fear into them? This is immoral. Even from a realpolitik perspective: If you formulate a policy that is disjoined from morality, why announce it? This policy is both counterproductive — since it breeds hatred — and immoral. That is madness."

He noted with a slight touch of

scepticism that he had been assured by government leaders that indiscriminate beatings was not Israel's policy. "Defence Minister Rabin noted that only 10 per cent of the army is brutal, and that the rest are all right. But this still amounts to thousands of people. I worry what all this has done to the Jewish soldier."

Schindler wrote of his concerns last month to President Herzog, and in reply Herzog challenged him to suggest an alternative to the firm suppression of the riots.

"Violence only increases violence. The other alternative is to begin a process of political accommodation as soon as possible, although I realise that this is difficult with a divided government. But Israel has to bite the bullet."

He asserted that Israel had missed opportunities in the past to pursue peace. "The belief that Arabs in the territories would eventually accept the notion of Greater Israel if their economic situation improved was wrong."

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The attitude of the U.S. administration is to try to cover crimes committed by the Israelis against the Palestinian people."

Schultz admits scepticism

In Brussels, Shultz conceded Tuesday that there was widespread scepticism about his Middle East mission, but it was worth trying even if the chances of a breakthrough were small.

"Well, I don't think many people give me much chance of success," Shultz said.

"That's the drift of questions everywhere — intense scepticism," he said replying to reporters' questions after addressing the NATO allies.

Nevertheless, he said, "I believe if there are some chances, even if those chances are small, it's worthwhile trying."

"You can't be too afraid of failing," he added. "So suppose if I go and I don't succeed. What am I saving myself for?"

After returning to Washington Tuesday, Shultz leaves for the Middle East Wednesday.

Schultz was taking with him a "blend of ideas" for peace. Shultz complained that as he embarked on his mission "everyone has extreme solutions (to offer), all or nothing solutions."

Soviet criticism

Soviet leaders have criticised the new American proposal for the Middle East but welcomed Shultz's tour of the region.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev described the plan as inconsistent, the official Soviet news agency TASS reported. U.S. officials say he was briefed by Shultz on the U.S. proposals as the two men met in the Kremlin Monday.

It quoted Gorbachev as telling Shultz the proposals failed to take account of the interests of all parties involved and relied on "interim measures and steps."

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Urban crisis in the Arab World

The fabric cracks

The cost of urban growth in certain Middle East cities has been high. Overcrowding has forced people to compete for scant resources. Traffic clogs the streets and thoroughfares while overburdened sewer and water systems regularly collapse under the strain of old age and inadequacy. Yet rural migrants continue to flock to the cities, where chronic shortages have forced rents up to astronomical levels. Lynn Smarck looks at the problems. — The Middle East magazine.

DRAMATIC events such as attempted coups and wars seize the headlines about the Arab World, but the quieter revolution of urbanisation is shaping the region's future just as fundamentally. The Middle East and North Africa is urbanising faster than any other region in the world, and World Bank studies project the trend to continue for the rest of the century.

Great cities have always flourished in the region, but never before have they expanded at such an astonishing pace. The proportion of people living in cities rose from 27.7 per cent in 1950 to 46.8 per cent in 1980, and continues to grow. By the year 2000, almost six out of every 10 inhabitants of the area will be city-dwellers.

"Our larger cities have experienced a doubling of the urbanised area, mostly as uncontrolled sprawl and speculative development, at a pace far outstripping the capacity of governments to integrate and service these new areas," said Mona Serageldin at a conference sponsored recently by the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C. Along with other scholars, Serageldin, a lecturer in Planning and Urban Design at Harvard, spotlighted the crisis spawned by the phenomenal growth of Arab cities.

The personal costs of unprecedented urban growth are heavy. "Coping with everyday life in a large city involves coming to terms with a constant assault on human dignity," Serageldin said. Collapsed high-rises in Cairo, electricity outages in Damascus and Aleppo, traffic snarls in most Arab capitals: Many problems are shared, but others are unique to a city or region.

Some observers characterise these sprawling cities as parasitic organisms that drain national resources without producing commensurate benefits. At the same time, as Serageldin pointed out, Arab cities — bustling with activity — offer many attractions. In the economic, cultural, and political arenas, they are the dynamic focus of Arab life and powerful magnets for migrants.

A large and growing phenomenon behind the urban increase has been the exodus of rural dwellers to cities. Children of the younger immigrants then join the natural increase of indigenous inhabitants. And as urban areas sprawl into the countryside — often swallowing precious agricultural land — entire villages are engulfed, augmenting the population still further.

Historically, another factor has been the uprooting of groups by political conflicts and war. Tens of thousands of Armenian refugees fled Turkey and sought refuge in Aleppo after 1914, for example, and hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were displaced to Arab countries after the founding of Israel.

Today, overcrowding is a pervasive feature of daily urban life across the region. City people are forced to compete for many scarce resources. Traffic clogs streets and pollutes the air; overburdened sewer and water systems burst and block streets; and — where public transport exists — buses bulge with passengers.

Particularly vexing is the chronic housing shortage besetting most of the cities. Rents have frequently risen to astronomical levels, and the old city cores or medinas are packed with more and more tenants. Older houses are being subdivided to hold more renters in the same space, explained Mark Tessler, a University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee political scientist speaking at the Washington conference. By the 1980s in some districts of Cairo, home densities had risen to 10 people to a room. In Aleppo, old courtyard homes which once held one family have been walled off into apartments for several families, each with a small segment of courtyard.

Other immigrants settle on the outskirts in the underserved, squatter shantytowns that blight many cities. Perhaps the most

inventive are the poor who have taken over Cairo's City of the Dead. Estimates of those living in tombs in these old cemeteries range from 250,000 to as high as 900,000.

Paradoxically, despite the scarcity of housing, apartment buildings stand empty in many cities. "There are wonderful new buildings in Cairo — a large number of them are unoccupied, held for speculation," according to Janet Abu Lughod, sociologist at the New School for Social Research. Vacant buildings are the unintended result (at least in part) of policies that some countries devised to protect tenants from unfair expulsion. A familiar refrain among landlords in Cairo, Damascus and elsewhere is that they have no choice but to leave apartments empty, because once rented, the law makes eviction almost impossible.

New Towns

Baghdad has taken a step to extricate itself from this dilemma. Serageldin reports that the city's owners can reclaim their apartments from tenants when needed for a newly-wedded family member. A more sweeping remedy was suggested by Abu Lughod for Cairo: The option of "urban reform" akin to the agrarian reform carried out in rural areas of Arab countries after independence. At the same time, she emphasises the importance of indigenous solutions.

Even in the wealthy cities of the Gulf, a growing population has outstripped available housing. As explained by Michael Bonine from the University of Arizona's Department of Geography and Oriental Studies, it is generally only the country's citizens who can avail themselves of low-cost loans to build housing.

Several Arab countries have attempted to channel some urban growth into "new towns," or entirely planned communities. Some of these have been sited in the desert, with others constructed around existing settlements. During the Sadat era, Egypt planned three new communities where none lay before: 10th of Ramadan, Sadat City, and New America City. Each was projected to house half a million people by the year 2000. The first two towns, now partially completed, have had difficulty attracting residents, while the third was never built. The architecture — monotonous apartment blocks along wide, tree-lined streets — has come under criticism as ill-adapted to a desert environment and local cultural norms.

"All new towns have problems," points out Nezar Alsayyad, a University of California-Berkeley planner formerly involved with the 10th of Ramadan project. In a recent interview, he noted that not enough consideration was given before construction to the key question of where to site Egypt's new towns, although location is a decisive factor in drawing residents.

Other countries such as Algeria, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia have also constructed planned communities. Saudi Arabia sited new towns at the smaller, older port towns of Yanbu and Jubail. According to Alsayyad, these have also had difficulties attracting residents, despite incentives. In both new towns and old, problems with water supplies will assume much greater dimensions in the future. The paramount importance of water in a parched region hardly needs emphasis, but recently the pattern of water use has changed. In the past, agriculture consumed the largest share of water, but cities now siphon off a significant portion for industrial and domestic uses. Growing urban populations, with higher standards of living, account for much of the increase. Water is also wasted through inadequate supply systems. A significant portion of Cairo's water, for instance, leaks out through damaged pipes. Drought, of



A street scene in Cairo

course, has strained some cities' supplies even further.

In the past, the average water use in homes across the region, as estimated in an article by University of Wales geographer Peter Beaumont, was less than 50 litres daily per person. Domestic consumption has now risen to between three and five times as much. Urban areas in some countries, such as Saudi Arabia and Sudan, may use in excess of 400 litres daily per person.

Another complication is that not all water supplies are renewable. Some Arab cities rely upon "fossil water" from aquifers — natural underground reservoirs that accumulated in times of greater rainfall. Today, nature is not replenishing such reservoirs as fast as they are exploited.

The water dilemma of many cities is compounded by inadequate sewage networks. Some cities installed modern sewage systems patterned after Western types requiring large amounts of water — a questionable strategy in an arid region. Like many urban problems, the sewage question is also important for public health. Common urban illnesses are spread by contaminated water.

Riots

The stress of living under such difficult conditions must account at least in part for the riots that exploded over the past decade in Cairo, Morocco, Tunis and Algeria. The causes of discontent are illustrated by the physical structure of cities. Sumptuous inter-continental hotels, shops filled with imported goods, and new office buildings are too often juxtaposed with unpaved streets and indifferent housing.

Much of the population has, in fact, lost out on the dividends of development. At the Washington conference, Tessler suggested that some rioters were motivated by resentment at the increased consumerism whose fruits have not trickled down. "In Morocco there were major riots in 1981," directed in part at symbols of luxury, he pointed out. Algeria had riots in 1984 and 1985; Tunisia had riots in 1984 and widespread disturbances this year.

They're raging at the consumer society that has grown up in their midst," Tessler reported being told by a young Tunisian. "Indeed, [the Tunisian rioters] came into some of the most fashionable neighbourhoods doing violence that seemed to be purposeless, except that it expressed their anger at what they saw as the root of the problem." Such symbols of the consumer society as expensive cars and video clubs were targeted.

A similar rush to consume imported goods has swept Cairo since Sadat's open door policy. "We all know Egypt is bankrupt," said Abu Lughod, "but when you visit Egypt, there is a glow of consumerism which is quite remarkable." Most of this flaunted wealth, however, belongs to a very restricted part of the population. Rioting by Cairo's police conscripts in 1986, which included the incineration of luxury hotels, may have been grounded in anger at the disparity of wealth.

Development

Certain cities and sub-regions provide particularly explicit examples of urban dilemmas. The widened gap between rich and poor, for instance, was targeted by Abu Lughod as a critical factor shaping present day Cairo. "We see a reversion to the gross inequalities which triggered the revolution of 1952," she said. The gap is reflected in the city's

physical structure. "The most striking change since the early 1970s is the rapid rate at which the city's quarters have once again been divided into well-served zones for the well-to-do, and very degraded quarters for the poor and even now, the lower middle class," she said.

The wealthy have fled the old, turn-of-the-century downtown areas for new apartment districts on the Nile's west bank, as well as to Helwan and Maadi. Investment has been lavished upon structures such as bridges, overpasses and subways. These "bypass the 1900-1970s city that has essentially been left to rot," Abu Lughod said. "The vitality of the older parts of town still persists, but it's often overshadowed by the elevated highways that thread their way past them." She views Cairo's future with pessimism. "I think the real crisis lays ahead," she concluded.

The wealthy cities of the Gulf display some fundamentally different urban patterns. Even in the rapidly urbanising Middle East, Gulf countries stand out as so urban as to be classed "city states." Approximately 80 per cent of Bahrain's population lives in cities, over 90 per cent of Kuwait's, more than 87 per cent of Qatar's, and 80 per cent of the UAE's.

Very rapid "oil urbanisation" has dominated the cities of the Arabian peninsula, in the view of Michael Bonine. "The more oil funds, the faster the development," he claims. "For example, the population of Abu Dhabi city in 1968 was 22,000. It is probably somewhere around 400,000 today."

The new Gulf cities — "modern, Western, urban structures," as Bonine characterised them — are fundamentally different from their traditional predecessors. "Rectangular grids, roundabouts, high-rise apartments, and office buildings are all part of the new urban scene."

The peninsular cities are also striking in their extreme dependence upon the cheap oil needed for such now ubiquitous features as air-conditioning. Another characteristic of these cities is that they have been designed and constructed predominantly by foreigners. The populations of the Gulf oil states continue to encompass majorities or significant minorities of foreigners. Segregation is also evident in planned developments, where natives live in one area and foreign workers in others, the latter themselves divided according to origin.

More than the rest of the region, the Gulf cities have suffered from "extravagant and unrealistic development," as Bonine describes it. "The profits fuel 'development' when it is not needed," resulting in an excess of ports, airports, and hotels. "The UAE alone, with only 1.7m people, now has three international airports."

As elsewhere in the region, domestic water consumption in Gulf cities has shot upward, often unchecked by metering. The case of Kuwait illustrates the growing need for water. Local aquifers once sufficed to meet the population's needs, until demand increased earlier in the century. Dhows, the traditional boats, were sent to bring additional fresh water from the Shatt al Arab. From the 1950s to the 1970s, Kuwait's domestic water consumption almost quadrupled. To meet the demand, desalination plants were built — a technology that, like air conditioning, relies on cheap energy. The inhabitants of the new Gulf cities must plan for an eventual future without oil, a non-renewable resource. "These modern edifices

are built on very fragile sand," Bonine believes.

At the other end of the Arab World, the cities of the Maghreb share some trends with the rest of the region. According to World Bank data, about 45 per cent of Moroccans are now city dwellers, as opposed to fewer than 30 per cent in 1960. Similarly about half of Algerians live in cities, and more than half of Tunisians.

Many of North Africa's new urbanites come from the countryside, causing what is often called a "ruralisation" of cities, with migrants carrying village habits into the new environment. This process has been identified in Egypt and in Levantine cities as well. Some of the outward manifestations are cluttered and impassable sidewalks, pedestrians threading their way through streets jammed with traffic, and laundry fluttering from balconies of once-elegant houses. People from the same family or village often group together in a neighbourhood. Population densities are high and living standards low.

Social science theory once predicted that the new city people, drawn from rural areas by urban opportunities, would assimilate and adopt urban values. Tessler recalls. Such prophecies have largely failed to materialise. Some rural people have indeed been drawn to urban jobs but many others have been forced off the land by the difficulty of making a living, compounded in some areas by drought. A basic cause of rural decline has been the failure of governments to invest sufficiently in rural development.

The result is that new urban immigrant populations have grown up which are "in between." All across the region, Arab cities clearly stand at the edge of a precipice as the growing pains of a headlong urbanisation rapidly worsen. The choice is between creating vibrant, livable urban environments, or allowing cities to sink slowly into the suffocating mire of overpopulation. Many frustrated citizens have already violently demonstrated their unwillingness to acquiesce in their cities' inexorable deterioration. Urban solutions will be daunting to formulate, however, entwined as they are with each nation's vision for its future.

Palme murder case — two bullets, 10 theories, and no progress

By Lars Foyen
Reuter

STOCKHOLM — The two-year hunt for the killer of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme has faded into a routine case based on two bullets, 10 theories and unflagging faith.

"The investigation is now basically a mine-to-five job," said Ulf Karlsson, the national police board administration in charge of the case.

"It is run like any other murder inquiry," he told Reuters at the headquarters of the Stockholm and national police forces.

Karlsson, an affable man in a grey business suit, supervises a 35-detective task force, down from a peak of 300 officers in the months following Palme's murder.

"The solution is not waiting around the corner, but there is still reason to feel a certain optimism," said Karlsson, whose policy is to divulge no details of the investigation.

"We are working with a huge amount of material and as much manpower and other resources as we can use. One day I think there will be a solution."

Karlsson's low-key style contrasts starkly with that of the assertive and controversial man he replaced a year ago, former Stockholm police chief Hans Holmer.

Holmer, named Swede of the year in 1986 by Swedish Television, concentrated police resources on his suspicions — not shared by prosecutors — about a group of Kurdish left-wing immigrants.

He rounded up a group of Kurdish suspects in January last year, but prosecutors released them later the same day.

In the ensuing public and political bickering the investigation collapsed into chaos, prompting the government to break a tradition of non-interference in legal matters. Holmer was sacked.

"I think it is important not to get tied down with any single



Olof Palme theory," said Karlsson.

From the very beginning

His detectives have returned to the scene of the crime, re-opened discarded leads and re-questioned dozens of people who were nearby when Palme was shot.

But despite some 20,000 tips and around 50,000 documents in the case databank, the only tangible evidence is two .357 calibre Magnum bullets found by bystanders after the shooting.

The investigation, Karlsson said, now revolves around checking fresh tips from the public and the pursuit of what he calls "10 fairly interesting lines of inquiry."

On February 28, 1986, Palme, having dismissed his bodyguards earlier in the evening, was walking home from the cinema with his wife Lisbet. They were going along Stockholm's main Avenue Sveavagen, when a man, probably about six feet (1.83 metres) tall and aged 30-40, approached them from behind.

The assassin fired twice at point-blank range — the first bullet killing the premier, the second grazing his wife's back — before fleeing up a darkened side street.

There the trail ends.

A government-named panel of jurists last May accused police of elementary blunders in the hours after the murder, saying they failed to cordon off a sufficiently large area of Sveavagen and to set up road blocks or airport con-

trols. "Emergency procedures were not perfect," Karlsson concedes.

An open mind

Was the killer, as some criminologists speculate, a lone anti-Palme fanatic who happened to see the premier enter the cinema, went home to get a gun, and returned to wait outside?

Or was he part of a well-planned Swedish or international conspiracy? Karlsson prefers to keep an open mind.

"We really haven't excluded anything. The victim and his involvement in international politics leaves us with any number of possible motives," he said.

Palme, 59, a four-term Social Democratic premier and an outspoken champion of Third World causes, was loved by his followers but made many enemies among rightists in Sweden and abroad.

A parliamentary commission has looked into and dismissed allegations by journalists that police are covering up involvement of rightist renegades on the force.

Newspapers have speculated that private international anti-Communist organisations or foreign intelligence agencies were behind Palme's murder.

Some have suggested a link to his role as United Nations mediator in the Iran-Iraq war and Swedish arms sales to the Gulf region.

"Several of our lines of inquiry have an international connection," said Karlsson.

Despite his guarded optimism, some officers feel the government's 50 million crown (\$8 million) reward for information solving the murder could be the last chance to crack the case and restore the reputation of the Swedish police.

"We need something new to work on. If we don't get it, I think the murder will remain unsolved," said Superintendent Inge Renberg, chief detective on the case.

Significant earthquakes jumped in 1987

By Randolph E. Schmid
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The earth trembled and shook more often in 1987 than it did in any year in more than a decade, according to a U.S. geological survey report.

The report said some 76 significant earthquakes struck around the world last year. The report included 10 in the United States, the most since 1980.

And while the worldwide death toll of 1,100 was far below average, the nine quake fatalities in the United States were the most in 16 years. The survey's National Earthquake Information Service reported.

Among the U.S. tremors was the world's strongest for the year, a quake measuring 7.6 on the Richter Scale that shook the Gulf of Alaska on Nov. 30.

The report was released Thursday, the same day a new quake caused parts of southern California to shudder, the same general area as a killer tremor last fall.

In addition, a strong earthquake struck Thursday night in

the Gulf of California in the waters separating Baja California from the rest of Mexico, but no damage or injuries were reported.

The worldwide total was the largest number of strong earthquakes since 1976, when there were 79 tremors measuring 6.5 or more on the Richter Scale or causing casualties or considerable damage, the survey reported.

Death well below average

While the 1987 total included 18 significant tremors more than the year before, the death toll of 1,100 was about the same as in 1986 and well below the long-term average of 10,000 quake deaths annually, the report added.

About 1,000 of the 1987 quake fatalities occurred March 6 when a tremor estimated at 6.9 on the Richter Scale struck along the Colombia-Ecuador border. That disaster caused considerable damage and left some 20,000 people homeless, said Waverly Person, head of the survey's

National Earthquake Information Service in Golden, Colorado.

The island of Timor in the western Pacific was the scene of 37 deaths in a Nov. 6 quake that measured 6.5. It reportedly destroyed 3,800 buildings.

The survey said the nine earthquake deaths recorded in the United States last year were the most in 16 years.

Eight of the fatalities occurred Oct. 1 when a 5.8 magnitude tremor shook Los Angeles, Pasadena and Whittier. That event damaged an estimated 10,400 buildings and caused damage estimated at \$358 million, the report said.

California officials have blamed seven deaths on that quake, but also say it contributed to an eighth death from a heart attack.

The ninth U.S. fatality occurred Oct. 4 when a 5.2 magnitude aftershock struck the same areas and one person died of a heart attack. Several injuries were reported in each event.

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AMMAN JORDAN

Soviets take bobsled gold; Swedes claim cross-country relay; American Blair bags speed-skating honours

Austrians turn tables on Swiss at Calgary

CALGARY (Agencies) — Austrian skiers, outgunned by the Swiss for years, have turned the fire on their alpine arch-rivals at the Calgary Olympics.

The reversal of fortunes was illustrated neatly in Monday's women's super-giant slalom when a gold medal seemingly destined for Swiss flyer Michela Figini was scooped by Austrian Sigrid Wolf by a full second.

Wolf's triumph brought Austria their third alpine title in six events while Switzerland have landed just one, through Pirmin Zurbriggen in the downhill.

Austria's proud Olympic tradition, built on the exploits of champions like Toni Sailer, Franz Klammer and Annemarie Moser-Pröell, took a battering at the 1984 Sarajevo Olympics where their meagre haul was one bronze.

Prospects still looked bleak in the run-up to Calgary when 1964 Olympic silver medalist Karl Schranz said the problem was assembling a team which would not be a total shambles.

While Austria flourished, the Swiss prospered, winning eight of the 10 world championship titles on home snow in Crans-Montana and nine of the 10 world cup crowns last season.

But Wolf and combined event gold medalist Hubert Strolz and Anita Wachter have put the Austrians in command, equalling their Olympic title haul of vintage years 1956, when Sailer swept all three men's golds, and 1964.

Silver medals for Bernhard Gstrein in the combination and Helmut Mayer in the super-G, in which the four Austrians finished in the top eight, have added to the tally.

Three dominant teams suffered reversals in the Winter Olympics as the Swedes broke a Soviet lock on men's cross-country races, and the Soviets upset the favoured East Germans in a controversial bobsled battle and American Bonnie Blair beat two Germans in a world-record speed-skating sprint.

Calgary's pesky winds reversed too, blowing cold from the north rather than warm from the west, but still were too strong for the 90-metre ski jumping, which now has been postponed twice and has been rescheduled for Tuesday. Officials called the delays "mental cruelty" and "psychological torture" for the jumpers.

Figure skating
Blair and East Germans Christa Rothenburger and Karin Kania all beat the 500-metre world record of 39.39 seconds set by Rothenburger in December on the same track. Blair won in 39.10. Rothenburger, the defending Olympic champion, took the silver in 39.12 and Kania won the bronze in 39.24.

Kania's bronze was her sixth medal of the games, including three golds.

Cross-country relay
Sweden's hard-pressed cross-country ski team finally got back on top with a 12.7-second victory over the Soviet Union in the men's 4x10-kilometre freestyle relay.

1988 WINTER OLYMPICS

Sweden, held to only one top-10 finish in the two previous races for men, captured the gold as Jan Ottosson, Thomas Wassberg, Gunde Svahn and Torbjörn Mogren completed four legs on the hilly Cannmore Nordic Centre course in 1 hour, 43 minutes, 58.6 seconds.

Czechoslovakia was third in 1:45:22.7. Switzerland, which led after the first leg, finished fourth in 1:46:16.3, just four-tenths of a second ahead of Italy.

The Soviets, who had swept the first two classical style races last week, dropped out of contention after Mikhail Deviatyrov fell coming into a curve on a steep downhill stretch at the 24-kilometre mark, early in the third leg.

Deviatyrov, who also fell on the third leg when the Soviets lost to Sweden in last year's world championships at Oberstdorf, West Germany, had lost his lead to Svahn just before tumbling this time.

Bobsled

Janis Kipours of the Soviet Union narrowly beat defending champion Wolfgang Hoppe of East Germany for the gold medal in the two-man bobsled.

Confronted with a sandpaper-like course made gritty by two days of dusty winds, Kipours edged Hoppe by seven-tenths of a second over the four heats.

Hoppe, 30, actually beat Kipours in Monday's final two heats. But each victory came by scant hundredths of a second that barely dented the eight-tenths of a second lead Kipours held at the end of the first two heats Saturday.

Hoppe's teammate, 1984 silver medalist Bernhard Lehmann, won the bronze at 3:54.64. Prince Albert of Monaco, 29-year-old heir to the Grimaldi throne, achieved his goal — just barely.

"I had pledged to place in the top 25, and I reached my goal," said the prince.

Monaco I, the principality's one and only competing bobsled, placed exactly 25th in a field of 41. The sled, driven by the prince, was timed nearly nine

seconds slower than the winning bob driven by Kipours.

In figure skating, Natalia Bestemanova and Andrei Bukin retained their lead in an event which became the most meaningless competition of the Games Monday.

While no one could dispute that the Soviet Union's European and world champions skated the best tango of the night — collecting scores of 5.9 from all judges for composition and presentation, apart from a perfect 6.0 for

presentation from the French judge — the efforts of many other skaters appeared to be ignored by the nine judges.

The overall position of the 20 couples established after Sunday's opening three compulsory remained unchanged after Monday's original set pattern.

With the wind continuing Monday to play havoc with the Olympic schedule, International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Samaranch sought to end speculation that the games might be extended beyond Sunday's closing ceremony.

"When I close the games, they are finished," Samaranch of Spain said in a newspaper interview.

Chinook and polar winds, sometimes gusting up to hurricane force, have forced revamping of the alpine, luge, bobsled and ski jumping schedules.

Competitors have blamed wind and weather conditions on everything from below-par performances to accidents.

U.S. seeks change in Seoul schedule

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. governing body for athletics is seeking changes in the 1988 Summer Olympics schedule that would benefit 1984 quadruple gold medalist Carl Lewis, the Athletics Congress of the USA (TAC) said Monday.

TAC has petitioned the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to provide additional time between the second round of the men's 200 metres and the final of the men's long jump at the Seoul Games, spokesman Pete Cava told Reuters.

The events are scheduled to take place about five minutes apart.

Lewis won gold medals in the 100 and 200 metres, long jump and 400-metre relay under a somewhat different timetable at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. His coach, Tom Tellez, said he had requested the change so that Lewis would have the opportunity to compete in both the long jump and 200, along with other events, if he desires.

TAC Executive Director Ollan Cassell, an IAAF vice-president, said in a memo to U.S. athletics officials that the Olympic schedule would "put athletes at a disadvantage in winning medals for the Olympic Games."

Cava said he was unaware of any response from either the IOC or IAAF on the petition.



Soviet figure skaters Ekaterina Gordeeva and Sergei Grinkov soar above the rink to bag the gold in the event

Soviet-Swedish clash to set off final race for ice hockey honours

CALGARY (AP) — Sweden and the Soviet Union, the two only unbeaten teams in the Olympic hockey tournament, face off Wednesday to start the final run for the gold.

But while world champion Sweden was the top seed in the preliminary round, it was less than dominating in its five "A" pool games. The Swedes didn't lose, but they won only twice while playing to tie three times.

In fact, Finland managed to finish first in the pool with a 3-1-1 record after stumbling in the first game and losing to Switzerland.

Based on two points for a victory and one for a tie, the Finns ended up with seven points, the same as Sweden and Canada, but won the division based on tiebreaker rules.

Finland was the last team to clinch a medal-round slot, beating Poland 5-1 Monday. The Finns then leapfrogged to the top of the "A" pool when Canada and Sweden fought to a 2-2 tie. Switzerland wrapped up fourth place by handing France its fifth loss 9-0.

The second-seeded Soviets, meanwhile, swept through the "B" pool unscathed, outscoring its five opponents 32-10, and look to be the heavy favourites to defend the gold medal they won

in 1984 at Sarajevo.

They actually will have an advantage even before the first puck is dropped. Since the Soviets beat the other two medal-round teams from their pool, they get to keep those four points.

Finland carries over three points, while Czechoslovakia, Sweden and West Germany will start with two each. Canada, despite its 3-1-1 record, will have only one point.

Czechoslovakia will face Finland, and West Germany plays Canada in the other first medal-round games.

Reijo Ruotsalainen scored a pair of goals for Finland, which used its superior speed to hold off Poland. The Poles, who had a strong first period, had fallen out of the medal chase after star forward Jaroslav Morawiecki tested positive for using the steroid testosterone.

Finnish goalie Jarmo Myllys stopped 17 shots in his fourth-straight excellent performance.

Sweden, the bronze medalists in the last two Olympics, got goals from Jens Ohling and Anders Eldebrink that were sandwiched around scores by Canada's Serge Boisvert and Meril Malinowski.

Ninth-seeded Switzerland has been one of the tournament sur-

prises with a 3-2 record, including the opening victory over Finland. The only Swiss losses were by 4-2 scores to Canada and Sweden.

The Swiss got a slow start against last-seeded France, leading only 1-0 after the first period, before getting untracked with three goals in the second period and five in the last. Two of the goals were by Joerg Eberle.

That made it easy for Swiss goalie Olivier Anken, who made 30 saves. He has allowed only two goals in almost three full Olympic games.

The only games Tuesday involve consolation-round competition. Norway, which finished last in the "B" pool, meets its "A" pool counterpart, France, for 11th place. France was outscored 47-10 in the preliminary round and said all along it hoped to finish 11th.

Austria tied Norway's 0-4-1 record but finished fifth on the basis of tiebreaker and will meet Poland, which was stripped off its only victory of the tournament after Morawiecki's positive drug test.

The other consolation game, involving the fourth-place finishers from each pool, will pit the United States against Switzerland Thursday.

Kasparov plays 59 children in simultaneous games, draws 2

NEW YORK (AP) — World chess champion Gary Kasparov of the Soviet Union charmed a gymnasium full of schoolchildren here Monday and then promptly beat more than 50 of them at once.

"It's like playing (pro basketball superstars) Larry Bird or Michael Jordan one-on-one," explained 14-year-old K.K. Karanja, who along with one other youth played the champion to a draw. The remaining 57 lost.

A beaming Kasparov, on a visit to the United States, was greeted at the Garrett Morgan Community Elementary School in the New York district of Bronx by a mob of reporters, photographers, school and city officials and star-struck student chess buffs.

"It's a great day for chess," said the 24-year-old Kasparov, dashing in a gray sweater, tan slacks and green scarf. "This is the beginning of the promotion of chess in the USA."

Inside the gym, the boards were arranged in a large square,

with Kasparov roaming the center and playing the white pieces. His opponents would ponder their moves for long moments; Kasparov pounced from board to board, sometimes making his move instantly, sometimes pausing for a few seconds.

Josh Waitzkin, 11, had the champ scratching his head and leaning on the table after two hours.

"You want a draw?" Waitzkin recalled asking.

"Yeah," Kasparov said. The two shook hands, and the gym resounded with cheers. Kasparov autographed Waitzkin's score sheet, and wrote "Well done" on it.

"I was pretty confident the whole way. I played a few inaccuracies," said Waitzkin, a student at Manhattan's exclusive Dalton School.

Tony Pagan, 15, was not as fortunate. He lost in about 40 minutes. "It was a good match," he said. "I had his queen — he must have given it up (as a sacrifice). It gave him a chance to come in stronger."

Benjamin Shuldiner, 10, was checked after 42 moves. "I was surprised at how long I stayed in — 42 moves is a lot against the world champion," he said.

Kasparov's adversaries ranged in age from seven to 15, and came from disadvantaged neighborhoods as well as more affluent areas of the city. All are participants in a programme sponsored



Gary Kasparov

by the Manhattan Chess Club.

Class after class of children from the inner city school filed by to glimpse the champion. Kasparov said such exhibitions to spark children's interest in the game are "a very important tradition" in chess.

"I think it is the duty of the world champion," he said. "If we get a lot of boys and girls into chess, we can hope that in the nearest future we will find a new wave of talent."

Kasparov, who defended his title in Spain last year against Anatoly Karpov, arrived in New York Sunday for a five-day stay.

He plans to meet with the cast of the upcoming Broadway show "Chess," play exhibitions Tuesday and Wednesday and meet Mayor Edward I. Koch Thursday.

Jerash Rally set for March 3

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jerash Rally, now sponsored by the Marriott Hotel, has been rescheduled to take place on the evening of Thursday, March 3, the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) announced Tuesday.

The rally will include a number of new competitive sections that have not been used before. Seven of the nine special stages are on asphalt roads and the other two are over good tracks north of Jerash. Total route distance is 273 kilometres including 71.6 kilometres of special stages.

The rally starts from the Marriott Hotel at 5.00 p.m. March 3 and there will be a regrouping halt at the Jerash Resthouse where the first car is due to arrive at 8.15 p.m. The finish of the event at the Marriott Hotel will be at 12.30 a.m.

This rally is seen as an ideal event for beginners as all but 16 kilometres of the route is on asphalt roads and so all types of cars are suitable. The rally will be identical to the first leg of the International Jordan Rally scheduled for next June and so it will provide an excellent opportunity for practice and familiarisation for the Jordanian drivers as well as the officials and marshals, according to RACJ officials.

Most of the regular Jordanian drivers have already registered for the Jerash Rally including the Royal Rally team composed of His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah and Nabil Karam. The Royal Jordanian entry of Issa Halabi driving a Nissan 240 RS has also been accepted and the current Jordan Rally champion, Hani Bisharat, will be driving a Toyota Celica in the event.

Tottenham signs Everton goalkeeper

LONDON (R) — Tottenham, anxious to find a successor to former England international Ray Clemence, has signed Everton's number two goalkeeper Bobby Mims on loan. Manager Terry Venables said Monday that he hoped to make the move permanent by the end of the week after sorting out a fee with Everton — expected to be about £400,000 (\$704,000) — and personal terms with the player.

Mims has been named in the Tottenham side in a First Division match Tuesday. He was to take over in goal from Tony Parks, who has enjoyed an extended run in the side after Clemence suffered a groin injury which has kept him out since mid-October. Mims, who proved a more than able stand-in for Welsh international Neville Southall when he suffered long-term knee and foot injuries, has not played for the first team since Southall reclaimed his place last September.

Lotus and Piquet unveil new car

LE CASTELLET, France (R) — The Lotus motor racing team Monday unveiled the car in which their new driver, Brazilian Nelson Piquet, hopes to capture his fourth world championship. The 100-T, built by technical director Gerard Ducarouge, has a modified cockpit in line with the sport's new safety regulations which require that the driver's feet rest behind the front axle.

The new car, at 4.27 metres much shorter than its predecessor, is powered by a Honda V-six engine and has a totally new gearbox, with a passive suspension system on Bilstein gas shock absorbers, Ducarouge said. "It's a classic car on which we've paid special attention to mechanics and aerodynamics," Piquet, who left the Williams team at the end of the 1987 season after lifting the Formula One Drivers' title for the third time, goes with Lotus to Rio de Janeiro Friday for private trials. He said: "I'm very confident, even though I know the competition this season is going to be very tough."

MEDAL TABLE				
CALGARY (AP) — Total medals after events Monday, eighth full day of competition at the Winter Olympics:				
Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
The Soviet Union	7	6	5	18
East Germany	6	5	3	14
Austria	3	3	1	7
Switzerland	1	4	2	7
Sweden	3	0	1	4
Finland	2	0	2	4
The United States	2	1	1	4
The Netherlands	0	2	2	4
West Germany	1	1	1	3
Norway	0	2	1	3
Canada	0	1	2	3
Czechoslovakia	0	1	2	3
France	1	0	1	2
Italy	0	0	1	1
Japan	0	0	1	1

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Meeting to look into raising funds to back uprising

AMMAN (J.T.) — A people's committee rallying support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories will hold a meeting at the Arab Bank headquarters in Amman Saturday.

A committee spokesman said that discussions will cover the ongoing process of collecting contributions for the Palestinian people and the formation of sub-committees in different regions to help in the process of raising donations.

The committee will open accounts in local banks for depositing the contributions.

AFF chairman leaves Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Arab Farmers Federation (AFF) Abdul Rahman Al Tokhri, who is also chairman of the Tunisian Farmers Federation, Tuesday left Amman after a two-day visit to Jordan, during which he met with Jordan Cooperative Corporation Director (JCC) Mervad Al Tal.

EC-GCC pact expected soon

KUWAIT (R) — The European Community (EC) will sign the first stage of a cooperation pact with Arab Gulf states by the middle of the year, an official of the European Parliament said Tuesday. Charles Caporale, head of the parliament's Middle East division, told Reuters: "There is virtually nothing that separates us now." He is touring the Gulf with a parliamentary delegation to discuss obstacles to a full trade agreement between the EC and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Arab Banking Corporation expects big success for Jordan's 5-year plan

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's potential for achieving the goals of its current 1986-1990 five-year plan have increased as a result of signs of revival in the country's economy during the past year, according to a report by the Manama-based Arab Banking Corporation (ABC).

The report said that the general revival in the Arab region's economy during 1987 will encourage Jordan to go ahead with schemes included in its five-year plan.

Stability in prices of oil produced by Gulf Arab states is also an encouraging sign since Jordan's economy is closely linked with the economies of these states, the report noted.

It said that an improvement in the Jordanian balance of trade, a surge in the volume of investments and credits offered to Jordan by foreign investors, banks and financial institutions and an increase in the volume of deposits in Jordan's banks are encouraging elements in the Kingdom's economy. The report highlights Jordan's acquisition of larger sums of foreign currency reserves and the increase in the activity at the Amman Financial Market.

However, the report said, the coming three years are bound to present Jordan with a strong challenge namely, the ability of the country to consolidate and direct its resources from the private and public sectors towards achieving at least 50 per cent of the real value of the gross domestic product and creating 97,000 new jobs for the citizens.

Basing its estimates on the five-year plan's statistical figures, the report said that the private sector's share of investments is expected to reach 48 per cent between 1986 and 1990.

It said also that the private industrial sector is expected to

account for 50 per cent of the total investments in the agricultural, mining and other productive fields.

The report noted that the government was expected to cover 71 per cent of the total cost of infrastructure work for these investments within the five-year plan.

Also with the five-year plan, the country's major "natural resources industries" like phosphates, potash, fertilisers and cement, which constitute nearly 60 per cent of the Kingdom's mining and industrial production, will be in a stronger position to honour their financial commitments.

The Jordan Phosphate Mining Company (JPMC), the report said, is considered one of the most important institutions in the Kingdom, and the country's major foreign currency earner.

In the light of these facts, the report said, the JPMC is expected to succeed in raising the JD 10 million it is seeking from the public by selling new shares for the purpose of financing future expansion projects.

The report said that Jordan has succeeded in obtaining financial help from other Arab countries over the past few years and is expected to receive more help from these countries following

the success of the Amman Arab summit last November.

Jordan, it said, will not fail to achieve the objectives of its investment programmes in the five-year plan though the country could be forced to obtain a number of loans; since recent trends in the country's balance of payments make Jordan more credit-worthy.

The report noted that a recent increase in Jordan's exports at a rate of 21 per cent and a drop in imports by nearly four per cent has enabled the country to reduce the deficit in its balance of trade from \$1.7 billion in 1986 to \$1.1 billion in 1987.

Orphan's Fund earns JD 0.75m from JD 16.86m of investments

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Orphan's Fund has investments worth JD 16.86 million in a number of Jordanian projects which bring in JD 751,000 in revenues annually, according to the fund's Director Ahmad Bashareh.

He said that the fund invested in public buildings, shopping centres in Amman and in other projects in order to raise annual income for charity.

He noted that the fund continues to receive contributions from benefactors and organisa-

tions. The fund, which is governed by a board of directors from the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and the Chief Islamic Justice Office, has a number of committees which manage its affairs in various governorates.

Bashareh said that the fund gives away 25 per cent of its profits to charitable organisations every year and also lends money to needy people to build homes or start small businesses.

Construction of schools in Amman cost JD 11.4 million

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Education Department has been involved in the construction of schools in the Amman region estimated at JD 11.35 million, according to department Director Abdul Qader Arabiyat.

He said that some of the schools have been built over the past two years while the rest are still being constructed.

These schools, he said, will enable the Ministry of Education to end the two-shift school systems that had been adopted to absorb the great number of students.

Minister approves tenders for projects in Aqaba, Zarqa

AMMAN (Petra) — Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Minister Youssef Hamdan has approved a tender for building a public garden in Qweira in Aqaba district at the cost of JD 17,543. The minister also approved a tender for a project designed to give protection to bridges in Zarqa district at an expected cost of JD 20,000.

Hamdan also approved the Arhah municipality budget of JD 80,961 for 1988.

Exports to U.S., Canada amount to JD 8.6m in 1987

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's exports to the United States and Canada last year amounted to JD 8,573,438, according to the Amman Chamber of Industry, and included medicines, chemical products, cosmetics, perfumes, electrical appliances, food supplies, textiles and agricultural products.

Balladur proposes rebuilding international monetary system

PARIS (R) — French Finance Minister Edouard Balladur proposed moving towards some form of fixed exchange rates Tuesday, saying floating rates had proved anarchic.

They were "probably one of the essential causes of the economic disorders of the past 15 years," he wrote in an article in the Wall Street Journal newspaper.

The article was written for the first anniversary of the Louvre accord in Paris in which the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations agreed to concert efforts to brake a fall in the value of the dollar.

Balladur said the accord, and a further G-7 declaration last December after the stock market crash, showed that key industrial nations agreed on the collective management of exchange rates and coordination of economic policies.

But, beyond this, he said it was necessary to envisage a true international monetary system with a standard unit of value — which would probably give a role to gold.

There would have to be sanctions for countries that did not stay in line.

"The time is ripe for dispassionate consideration of this issue, since inflation has receded and the Louvre agreements are working well," he said.

Balladur said inflation had been largely brought under control in the main industrial nations, so, for the first time in 15 years, this prerequisite for restoring an international monetary system had been fulfilled.

The post-war Bretton Woods system of fixed exchange rates collapsed in the early 1970s, a period of high inflation.

In that system, other currencies were fixed against the dollar which was itself convertible into gold at a fixed price. U.S. economic troubles and the cost of the Vietnam war forced then President Richard Nixon to devalue the dollar against gold in 1971 and the system soon collapsed.

In the Wall Street Journal article, Balladur proposed that nations entrust a small group of distinguished people to study a new system but did not say who

these should be. Balladur put forward three possible solutions, although each had drawbacks.

One was a system based on international cooperation, building on and strengthening the spirit of the Louvre accord.

But he said: "There is no doubt that while the Louvre system represents major progress over the anarchy of floating exchange rates, it does not constitute a true international monetary system."

A second approach would be a mechanism similar to the European Monetary System (EMS) in which key European currencies float within agreed bands against the dollar.

Balladur thought that a world currency, not the dollar, should be the reference point in an expanded EMS-type system.

Third, he envisaged a new system organised around a standard that would play the role of main world reserve asset. He noted that the historical model for such a system was the 19th century gold standard and said it would be difficult to rebuild a true international monetary system without giving gold a role.

Shares worldwide extend rally

LONDON (R) — Share prices around the world extended an advance of recent days Tuesday but the investor optimism puzzled brokers in several centres.

The dollar and gold eased. "This market should be down, down, down, but nobody wants it to go down," said a share dealer in Frankfurt.

Tokyo, the biggest stock market, rose for the ninth straight session — "people keep expecting a correction, but it is just not coming," said a broker there.

In London, a trader said: "I'd feel happier about this week's rises if they were based on some solid volume. This way, some bad news could take the market down just as fast."

Tuesday's stock markets around the globe were buoyed by reports of a brisk advance in New York stocks Monday.

This took the Dow Jones industrial average up 25.70 points

to 2,040.29, the second best close since Oct. 19, when it lost an historic 508 points and set off a global market collapse.

Tokyo's key Nikkei index ended Tuesday up 102.74 at 24,949.45. London's FTSE index of 100 blue-chip British shares then opened 17.4 up at 1,764.6, extending a 17-point Monday advance, and held around that level through mid-morning.

However, the volume of trading in London was low, as it has been for several weeks. Traders say big institutions remain wary of the stock market.

Meanwhile, the dollar slipped, and European brokers said any sharp dollar fall could quickly renew jitters about prospects for the global economy in the stock markets.

The dollar during the European morning hovered just above 1.69 Deutschmarks and around 128.50 Japanese yen, having

held above 1.70 and 129 through last week.

Currency dealers said they were waiting for testimony to Congress Wednesday by Alan Greenspan, chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board (central bank), for clues on the direction of the U.S. economy.

The pound sterling was barely changed, fetching \$1.7657 and 2.988 marks at 1000 GMT. Gold was fixed in the London market at \$443.95 an ounce, slightly down on \$445.50 Monday afternoon.

Among continental European bourses, Paris shares were firmer ahead of the main trading session. Frankfurt opened firmer in moderate trading.

In Asia, Sydney's main share index rose 13.1 points to 1,263.8 but after a morning rise Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended the day 17.82 points down at 2,329.35.

70 million Chinese live in poverty

PEKING (R) — More than 70 million of China's one billion people live in poverty and rising prices could hamper a drive to raise their incomes, a government official said Tuesday.

China will also be forced to continue subsidising incomes to keep more people from falling into economic distress, Zhang Zhongji, spokesman for the State Statistical Bureau, told reporters. He said 60 million people in the

countryside earn less than 200 yuan (\$55) a year while another 10 million make less than the minimum 450 yuan (\$120) a year for city dwellers.

The ranks of the rural poor have fallen from 80 million in 1986 but inflation is hampering efforts to lift them out of poverty.

Inflation climbed by more than seven per cent last year, according to official estimates but Western diplomats say it could have

reached 20 per cent in some big cities.

About 21 per cent of some 110,000 households surveyed across the country said their living standards fell last year because of rising prices, according to official statistics. Nearly half of them were described as having "economic hardships."

"I am also within the 21 per cent," said Zhang. "I did not get a rise and prices went up."

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You may feel a bit tired this morning, but this feeling will soon pass and you will find some very interesting opportunities to put a clever new idea into action. You can progress quickly by using your imagination.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A superior can give you the advice and support you need to get a new project under way. Be sure to drive with the utmost care.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) Try to be more practical in handling your daily routine, and you'll make much more rapid progress. Avoid a person who resents your position.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Study some information which comes from a distance carefully, as it may help you to advance very quickly in the near future.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A skilled adviser can help you clear up a financial difficulty this morning. Have a long talk with your mate this evening.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A good friend can help you get into a new social activity which will make you much more popular. Take it easy tonight and get plenty of rest.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 23) Get together with your fellow workers for some recreation. This will create a greater harmony in the workplace, and increase efficiency.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 to Oct. 23) You can enjoy the company of someone with very different views from your own if you keep an open mind and try to understand them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) Don't let anyone influence your thoughts or actions today, or you could have a great deal of trouble accomplishing your goals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Before beginning a large, new project, get the advice of an expert who has had many past successes in this area of business.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) The greater your ingenuity, the greater your chances for success, so use your imagination. Use care in making an important decision.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) This is a fantastic day to establish some fine new relationships, so be charming and courteous to everyone you meet today.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Forget tradition today, and be more spontaneous and imaginative. This will make your daily routine more exciting and enjoyable.

If Your Child Is Born Today: He or she will have a seemingly conventional, conservative exterior, but will actually be quite modern and progressive and is apt to be ahead of his or her time. Your progeny should be given a top-rate education so that the potential success will increase tremendously.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.7658/68	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.2710/20	Canadian dollar	
	1.6915/25	Deutschmarks	
	1.8986/96	Dutch guilders	
	1.3877/87	Swiss francs	
	35.33/37	Belgian francs	
	5.7225/45	French francs	
	1246/1247	Italian lire	
	128.60/70	Japanese yen	
	6.0170/0220	Swedish crowns	
	6.3810/60	Norwegian crowns	
	6.4590/4640	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	442.90/443.40	U.S. dollars	

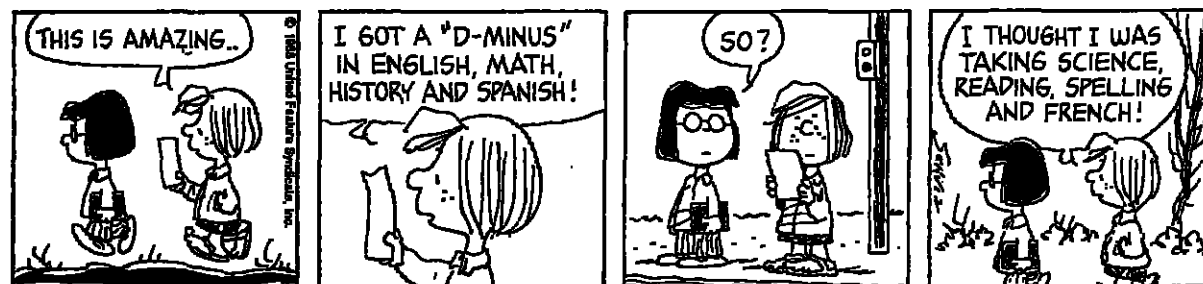
AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — National Steel Industries led trading activity Tuesday in terms of volume and the number of contracts which stood at JD 191,668 and 67 out of an overall total of JD 614,812 and 473 respectively. Jordan Lime and Silicate Brick Industries led in terms of the number of shares which amounted to 75,650 out of an overall figure of 387,132 shares. Another company which figured prominently Tuesday was the Intermediate Petrochemical Industries as 44,300 of its shares were traded for a volume of JD 67,041.

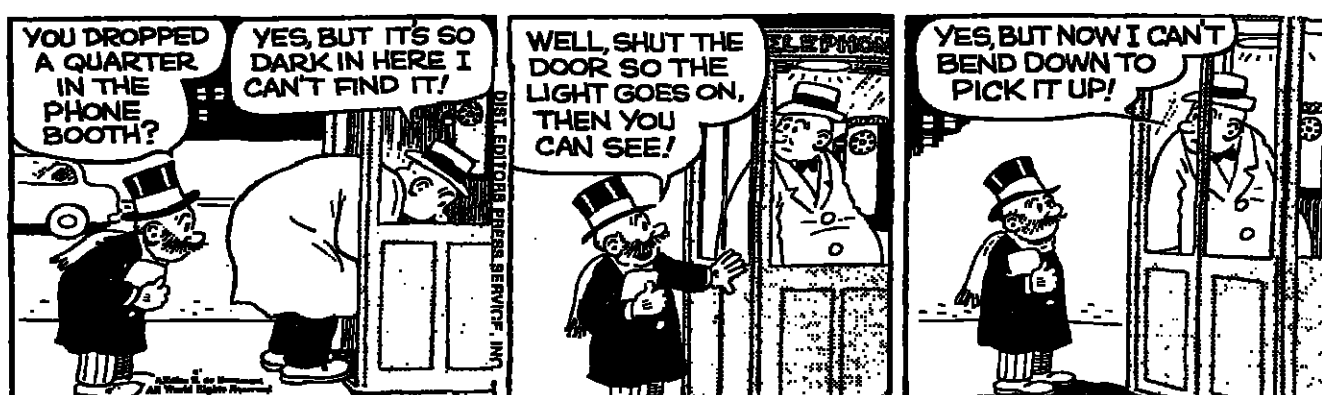
Shares of 44 companies changed hands and prices were stable for most of them except the Arab Bank, Jordan French Insurance, National Steel Industries and Universal Chemical Industries. The range of highest and lowest price for each was respectively as follows: JD 118,900 - JD 118,000; JD 5,690 - JD 5,600; JD 2,850 - JD 2,790 and JD 1,980 - 1,890.

A total of 440 development bonds were also traded for a total volume of JD 4,711.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



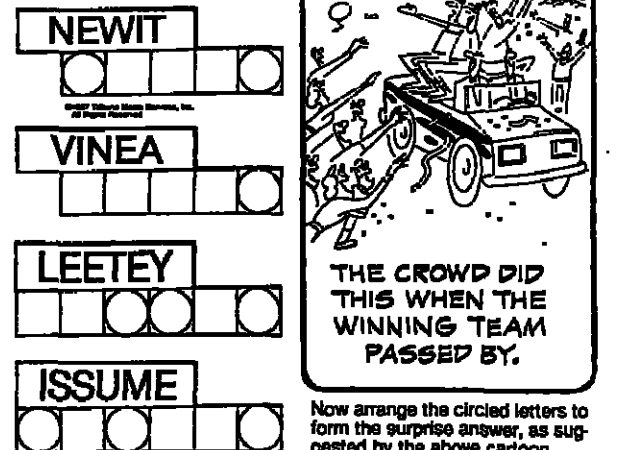
THE BETTER HALF



"There's deadly additives in the food you bought for your wife. You're under arrest for attempted murder!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: OFF "FOSSIL"
Yesterday's Jumble: FLUD HOUSE OPPOSE SQUALL
Answer: What the female dinosaur said to her grouchy mate — YOU OLD FOSSIL

U.S. opposes demand for interim Kabul government

BRUSSELS (R) — The United States opposes Pakistan's demand for an interim government in Kabul before a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, a senior U.S. official said Tuesday.

"We wouldn't want to miss the bus," the official said. "We've been trying to get the Soviets out for years" and it would be wrong to tell them to "stick around" until the Afghans work out a political settlement, he added.

The official, who asked not to be identified, spoke with reporters travelling with Secretary of State George Shultz from talks with Soviet officials in Moscow to NATO headquarters in Brussels, where he will brief allied foreign ministers.

It was expected that U.S. Under-Secretary of State Michael Armacost would convey this U.S. position when he flies to Pakistan after the alliance meeting.

Another senior U.S. official said American intelligence reports said Soviet troops in Afghanistan were being "garrisoned in a more defensive way," their dependents were being withdrawn and other military person-

nel were not being replaced.

Shultz has endorsed the idea of an interim government in Kabul as a means of creating stability for the orderly departure of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops and for the return of some three million refugees who fled the Afghan war.

He sidestepped the question of whether such a government should be in place before Soviet troops quit Afghanistan but stressed the difficulties of establishing an interim coalition that would be acceptable to both sides.

After talks in Moscow that focused heavily on regional issues, Shultz told a news conference Monday he was confident the Soviets would withdraw their forces and that U.N.-sponsored negotiations resuming in Geneva on March 2 would be the last round.

Before Moscow, Shultz said he would demand details of a Soviet offer to begin withdrawing the

troops by May 15.

Afterwards, U.S. officials said that detail was not forthcoming and they seemed to accept the Soviet argument that such information should emerge from the Geneva negotiations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, not from U.S.-Soviet talks.

The march of Soviet troops into Afghanistan in 1979 so angered U.S. officials that it was a factor in the Senate's failure to approve the SALT-II arms limitation treaty. It has been a major source of tension in the U.S.-Soviet relationship ever since.

Pakistan-Saudi talks
Pakistani Foreign Minister Zain Noorani began a visit to Saudi Arabia Tuesday to try to rally Saudi support for Pakistan's mediation role in ending Afghan conflict.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said Noorani, who will head his country's negotiating team to the Geneva talks, met his Saudi counterpart Prince Saud Al Faisal immediately after his arrival. Noorani has also visited Washington, London and Peking in a round of hectic diplomatic activity.

Kanaks release police hostages

NOUMEA, New Caledonia (AP) — Nine French policemen taken hostage by about 100 separatist demonstrators at a hospital construction site were released Tuesday morning, authorities said.

The police were taken hostage following a clash with authorities that left 17 officers injured, including two seriously. Officials originally said about a dozen officers had been taken, but that figure was revised to nine Monday night.

The national gendarmerie said the men were released less than two hours later as the result of a police operation which was about to be launched. Officials said no concessions had been made to the separatists and no negotiations conducted.

All of the separatists escaped arrest. No other details were provided.

Philippe Berges, chief of staff at the high commission, said the protesters at Poindimic on the east side of the South Pacific island had been demanding a halt to work on the site, which began Friday.

He said the team of gendarmes showed great restraint by not firing their weapons when they were attacked with stones.

Webb resigns with blast at Carlucci

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Navy Secretary James Webb, feeling betrayed by a Pentagon decision to cut defence costs by postponing plans for a 600-ship navy by 1990, resigned 10 months after taking the job with a broadside at his boss.

Although Reagan administration officials said they were sorry to see Webb go, no one tried to talk him out of leaving.

"It's part of the job. If you can't support the defence secretary, you keep your mouth shut or you resign. So he quit," one Defence Department official told Reuters after Webb announced his decision to reporters Monday.

Other administration officials, who also asked not to be identified, said Webb's move would prompt no changes in the \$299.5-billion 1989 budget sent to Congress by Defence Secretary Frank

Carlucci last week.

Webb, 42, released a copy of a letter to President Reagan and bitterly attacked Carlucci's decision to retire 16 navy frigates as part of \$32.5 billion in defence budget cuts. The navy took nearly \$12 billion of those cuts.

The decision to scrap the frigates will leave the navy with about 580 warships going into 1990 instead of the 600 promised by Reagan and former Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Webb, who became navy secretary last April, said he had no quarrel with the amount of cuts Carlucci was asking the navy to make but said he and other navy leaders thought they could be absorbed in other ways without reducing the number of warships.

"I am unable to support him (Carlucci) personally, or to defend this amended budget,"

Ball named successor

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan nominated White House aide William Ball Tuesday to succeed Navy Secretary James Webb, who resigned over budget cuts. Ball, a former State Department official and senate staffer, is expected to deal more readily with cuts in naval forces than did Webb.

"The president feels the pain (of budget cuts) no less than anyone else," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said in announcing the nomination of Ball, Reagan's liaison officer with Congress. "Nevertheless, it has to be done."

Webb told Reagan in his letter of resignation, which White House officials said would be accepted with regret.

Webb and many navy officials have said that a 600-ship navy is the minimum necessary to fly the U.S. flag round the world, especially in trouble spots such as the Gulf.

N. Koreans spurn 'Mayumi' confession

PANMUNJOM (R) — A top U.N. commander showed North Korean generals Tuesday film of a self-avowed northern agent admitting bombing a southern airliner and swore terrorism would not upset the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Rear Admiral William Pendley's tough words were rejected by the chief northern delegate to

the Korean truce talks, who denied the sabotage charge and accused South Korea of destroying the plane for internal political reasons.

General Li Tai-Ho added that the U.S.-led United Nations command planned to use its coming "Team Spirit" military manoeuvres to prepare an attack across the border which has divided the peninsula since the end of the 1950-53 Korean war.

"It's a very sad and terrible story of a despicable crime," Pendley told the impassive Li.

"It is acts like these which are responsible for increased tension on this peninsula."

"I want you to tell those who are responsible for killing 115 innocent civilians — the party central committee in Pyongyang — that their objective, to discour-

age the community of nations from coming to the Seoul Olympics, will not be met."

North Korea convoked Tuesday's 441st meeting of the military armistice commission in the truce village of Panmunjom to protest against the 13th annual U.S.-South Korean joint war games due to start next month.

"Team Spirit is a nuclear bombing exercise... U.S. F-16s and F-15s will be taking part in nuclear bombing exercises, an offensive exercise designed to attack us," Li said.

The American admiral screened a South Korean film of Kim Hyon-Hui, first identified by her fake passport name "Mayumi" who admitted taking part in the destruction of Korean Air Lines flight 858 last November 29, killing all 115 aboard.

U.S. probing illegal transfer of computer to Soviet Union

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The government confirmed Monday it is investigating allegations that a U.S. computer system that could help determine optimal targets for nuclear missiles had been illegally shipped to the Soviet Union.

According to a report in Monday's editions of the Washington Times, a Los Angeles company, Essex Marketing Co., is under investigation for an alleged shipment of last Dec. 21 of a computer

capable of simulating nuclear explosions to an engineering college in Zagreb, Yugoslavia.

However, the computer was diverted and wound up in the Soviet Union instead.

"We're concerned by this apparent diversion and are working with Yugoslav authorities to determine exactly what happened in the specific case," said State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley.

U.S. congressman faces expulsion for accepting gifts

WASHINGTON (R) — Expulsion from the House of Representatives is the only suitable sanction against Congressman Mario Biaggi for discrediting the chamber by accepting illegal gifts, a House of Representatives committee said in a report Monday.

The Ethics Committee said last week it was recommending Biaggi's expulsion but withheld comment on the reasons until publication of its report.

Biaggi, a 70-year-old New York Democrat, was convicted in September by a federal jury of accepting illegal gratuities in the form of trips to Florida and St. Maarten from New York politician Meade Esposito.

"The committee is of the view that Representative Biaggi's acceptance of a gratuity on three occasions constituted actions which discredited the House of Representatives as an institution," the report said.

In return for the trips, the committee said Biaggi tried to get government business for Coastal Dry Dock and Repair Corp., which owed money to a firm

owned by Esposito.

The committee said the violations were of a "most serious nature" and warranted the most stringent sanction available.

"Accordingly, the committee submits that expulsion is the only sanction appropriate to the violations committed by Representative Biaggi." The vote for expulsion was 12-0, the report said.

The committee could have recommended a reprimand or censure, allowing him to keep the seat he has held since 1969.

If Biaggi is to be expelled, the full 435-member house must approve the committee's recommendations by a two-thirds majority vote. No date has been set for a vote.

Biaggi has denied the charges and said he would ask the house not to act before his appeal of the conviction is completed.

Biaggi would be only the second member of Congress expelled this century. The other was Pennsylvania Democrat Ozzie Meyers, removed in 1980 after conviction on bribery and corruption charges.

Ex-Kennedy mistress says he used her as mafia conduit

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A woman who 12 years ago described having an affair with President John F. Kennedy in The White House says her terminal cancer led her to admit another secret, that she was a conduit between him and the mafia.

"Now that I know I'm dying and nothing more can happen to me, I want to be completely honest," said Judith Campbell Exner, 54, in an interview published in the Feb. 29 issue of People magazine. "If I'd told the truth, I'd have been killed. I kept my secret out of fear."

Exner said she arranged about 10 face-to-face meetings between Kennedy and Chicago mob boss Sam Giancana while she and Kennedy were having an affair in 1960-61. Giancana was shot to death in 1975.

Jeff Smith, spokesman for Senator Edward Kennedy in Washington, said "There has been no comment and there probably will not be a comment"

from the Kennedy family.

Exner said entertainer Frank Sinatra introduced her to Kennedy in 1960, and later to Giancana.

The article contained no response from Sinatra, who has always denied having ties to mobsters. There was no answer at his publicist's office.

A law professor who has argued that the mafia took part in a plot to kill Kennedy said Sunday he was skeptical of Exner's claim.

"The original story she told is true, but for her to suddenly elaborate on it after 13 years later suggests she's untrustworthy," said G. Robert Blakey of the University of Notre Dame.

Exner said in the interview with People that she regularly carried messages from Kennedy to Giancana and his henchman Johnny Roselli.

Exner said she never read the messages but believes Kennedy used mob money to help finance his presidential campaign.

Indian parliament session gets off to raucous start

NEW DELHI (R) — India's new parliament session kicked off to a raucous start Tuesday with the entire opposition walking out and thousands demonstrating outside to press for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to resign.

The opposition stormed out of the lower house after the speaker refused to allow the opposition to file censure motions against Gandhi.

Opposition members demanded the right to criticise the government for a longer period but Speaker Balam Jakkhar said the issues would be discussed in the next few days instead.

The opposition said they would question Gandhi on increasing violence by Sikh militants in Punjab which has claimed more than 1,200 lives last year, and the use of the army during elections that turned violent in the northeast state of Tripura earlier this month.

Outside, more than 5,000 opposition activists waved flags and chanted "Rajiv resign" at a rally led by some of Gandhi's former colleagues who defected from his Congress (I) Party last year.

Gandhi, 43, who swept to power in 1984 after his mother's assassination, has been battered by allegations of kickbacks in defence deals and by three state election losses.

After hitting back at critics, heading off strong left-wing challenges to win polls in the three northeastern states, the prime minister this month reshuffled his cabinet.

Noriega's fired aide appears before Iran-contra prosecutors

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former top aide to Panama's leader Manuel Antonio Noriega met under heavy guard Monday at the U.S. courthouse with prosecutors investigating the Iran-contra affair.

Jose I. Blandon presumably was questioned by the staff of independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh about Noriega's agreement to train Nicaraguan rebels at the request of Oliver North, a former National Security Council (NSC) official who is a target of Walsh's investigation.

Blandon, a former Panamanian intelligence official, was escorted by heavily armed U.S. marshals as he arrived at the courthouse for his meeting with members of Walsh's staff.

Blandon is a former top intelligence official in the Panamanian government. Earlier this month, U.S. government prosecutors in Florida obtained indictments charging Noriega with taking at least \$4.6 million in bribes to protect a major Colombian drug ring.

Blandon recently told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Noriega agreed to provide training for Nicaraguan anti-Sandinista rebels after receiving a request from North in 1985.

North sought the training on Panamanian soil because Congress had banned direct U.S. military aid to the rebels, Blandon said.

Blandon, who was fired last month as Panama's consul general in New York, told congressional hearings earlier this month that North met with Noriega on a yacht in June 1985 near the

WORLD NEWS

BBC nominated for Nobel

LONDON (AP) — An all-party group of 22 British legislators has formally nominated the external services of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) for this year's Nobel Peace Prize. BBC Chairman Marmaduke Hussey announced the nomination Tuesday. The BBC said there are at least 100 other nominations from around the world for the prize this year. It is unusual for organisations to be nominated for the prize, which is normally awarded to individuals, but the London-based human rights group Amnesty International was awarded it in 1977. The 22 House of Commons legislators in their letter to the Oslo-based Nobel Peace Prize Committee said they made the nomination in recognition of the BBC's 55 years of international broadcasting and its endeavour to live up to the BBC motto "nation shall speak peace unto nation."

Swaggart agrees to 'rehabilitation'

ALEXANDRIA (R) — Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart who stepped down from his global television pulpit in a sex scandal, has agreed to a "rehabilitation" deal that could reinstate him within three months, church officials said. Swaggart, 52, who made a tearful public confession Sunday, met officials of his Assemblies of God church for more than nine hours Monday to discuss his future. The charismatic evangelist, who parlayed his preaching into a multi-million dollar worldwide ministry, said in the confession that he had sinned against God, his family and his church. Although Swaggart did not elaborate, the hellfire and brimstone evangelist was reported to have been photographed leaving a New Orleans hotel with a prostitute. Throughout his 25-minute confession before a packed audience of more than 7,500, churchgoers wept openly.

Bombs damage cars at U.S. base

GOEPFINGEN (AP) — Several private automobiles were damaged early Monday when six home-made bombs exploded among the vehicles as they were parked on the grounds of a U.S. military camp, police said. Police said one or more people apparently climbed unnoticed over a fence circling the Cook barracks before dawn and set the small explosive devices on the ground near the parked cars.

Philippine ferry toll put at 3,000

MANILA (R) — The Philippine National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) says more than 3,000 passengers — double the manifested number — were on board an inter-island ferry which sank in December in the world's worst peacetime sea disaster. NBI agent Gordon Uy told a congressional

hearing Monday that interviews with relatives confirmed at least 3,099 passengers were on the ferry Dona Paz along with 59 crew. Officials in the central Philippine port of Tacloban had put the figure at 3,061, Uy added. Only 26 people survived the night collision between the Manila-bound ferry loaded with Christmas travellers and the oil tanker vector. Both ships sank. Relatives of Dona Paz survivors filed a nine billion-peso (\$439-million) damage suit Monday against the shipowners, Sulphur Lines, accusing the company of negligence.

Two Sri Lankan soldiers killed

COLOMBO (AP) — Two Sri Lankan soldiers were killed when Sinhalese militants raided an army camp northeast of Colombo and escaped with arms and ammunition, military officials said Tuesday. The officials said the camp near the northeast of Colombo, was raided Monday night. The soldiers killed were on guard duty, said the officials. The militants, believed to belong to the outlawed People's Liberation Front, escaped with two T-56 automatic rifles and 120 rounds of ammunition, they said. The pro-Sinhalese front has been blamed for more than 150 killings since last July. The organisation has vowed to kill anyone who supports the peace accord aimed at ending the Tamil separatist war on the island and has targeted government officials and the army.

Another near-miss in British skies

LONDON (AP) — An oil-rig helicopter and a Phantom jet fighter came within 600 kilometres of colliding over the North Sea Monday in the third reported near-collision in two weeks in Britain's crowded skies, the helicopter firm said. The incidents prompted calls Monday for an inquiry into growing air congestion before the summer travel season begins. But the government accused air traffic controllers of fomenting "public hysteria" and said there was no cause for alarm. Bristow Helicopters said its Puma aircraft carrying 11 passengers and two crew from an oil rig 260 kilometres northeast of Aberdeen climbed sharply as it neared the Scottish city after air traffic controllers warned that it was on a collision course with a Royal Air Force jet. Bristow said its helicopter moved up from an altitude of 600 metres and the two-seater military jet passed below. Both aircraft later landed safely and no one was reported injured. Earlier Monday, Transport Secretary Paul Channon promised an investigation into a near-collision Sunday between a British Caledonian BA-1-11 and a Pan American Boeing 727 jet. Channon said the two planes came within 1,800 metres of each other over southern England but had not been in danger of colliding. Two weeks before, there was a near-collision between a British Airways jet and a Bulgarian airliner.



Loveless chimp arrested in Belgrade

BELGRADE (R) — A 12-year-old chimpanzee looking for a girlfriend was arrested Sunday as he tried to enter a Belgrade cinema without a ticket, Tanjug news agency said. The chimp Sammy broke out of his centrally-heated cage in Belgrade zoo and braved the wintry evening cold. He went window shopping, uttering his mating call, before strolling into the cinema, where he was detained by traffic police at the door. He was later driven home by zoo director Vuk Bojovic, Tanjug said. Chimpanzees cost about \$10,000 and the zoo says it cannot afford to buy Sammy a companion.

UFO spotted over Colombia

BOGOTA (R) — An unidentified flying object was spotted over the Medellin airport Feb. 9 by several pilots and flight control operators, the daily El Colombiano reported Monday. At one stage, the international Jose Maria Cordova airport control tower, believing it was a private plane, gave landing instructions, the newspaper reported. The crew of a Boeing 727 of the Colombian airline Avianca coming from Miami and Barranquilla radioed the control tower: "It is following us." The tower ordered the plane to circle instead of landing to avoid a collision. An aeronautical board imposed a news blackout on the events. But a journalist who later won permission from the regional prosecutor to listen to tapes of the air traffic conversations reported that the object looked like a fast-moving giant star. A flight attendant came into the cockpit to tell the Boeing pilot: "It is practically above the tail of the plane, at a fair distance, moving at the same speed." The crews of five different planes, including a military plane carrying army chief General Oscar Botero, reported seeing the object, which stayed in the area for half an hour.

Brigitte Bardot saves beached dolphin

SAINT-TROPEZ, France (R) — Brigitte Bardot, 1960s sex symbol turned protector of animal rights, was in the right place Sunday when a dolphin was beached outside her home near this southern French resort. Bardot, 53, now a recluse who has shunned cinema roles to campaign for animal rights, made an impassioned plea to local rescue services to save the beached animal. The 90-kg dolphin was hauled out to sea but returned and was beached again. This time Bardot brought in a veterinarian from a local aquarium, who injected the mammal with penicillin before rescue services pulled it far out to sea, saving its life.

German shepherd is France's champ

MONTPELLIER, France (AP) — Ulmer, five-year-old German shepherd, has been named France's champion truffle sniffer for 1988, defeating 14 other dogs. Ulmer, one of three entrants belonging to Jerome and Paulette Tedesco of Cahors, unearthed six hidden truffles in just 1 minute and 22 seconds in Sunday's contest at Grammont, just outside the southern French city of Montpellier. The Tedesco's two other German Shepherds, Oscar and Chico, finished third and fourth in the competition, held for the 15th year. Truffles, a prized and expensive culinary delicacy, are fleshy, potato shaped fungi which grow underground near the roots of trees. They are hunted with dogs and hogs, which are able to sniff them out.

Heroin worth \$1.8 billion seized in statue scheme

CHICAGO (R) — U.S. authorities said Monday they had seized \$1.8 billion worth of heroin smuggled from Thailand in seven statues. Prosecutors said agents became suspicious of the art works when they arrived at O'Hare international airport from Bangkok, broke them open and found 575 kilos of heroin. They placed a small amount of the drug back in the statues, pieced them together and sent them on their way. After a stop near Chicago, the shipment went to New York City, where six men were arrested when they accepted delivery last weekend, U.S. attorney Anton Valukis said. The heroin had a street value of \$1.8 billion, U.S. agents said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A985 ♥KQ76 ♦6 ♣AJ107
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♦ Pass 1 S
Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.2 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK1093 ♥73 ♦954 ♣AJ9
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
2 ♥ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.3 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK105 ♥AK7 ♦A1083 ♣73
What is your opening bid?
- Q.4 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AK105 ♥AK7 ♦A1083 ♣73
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♥ Pass 1 NT Pass
? What do you bid now?

Q.5 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠762 ♥Q104 ♦J72 ♣KQ94
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.6 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠65 ♥K97 ♦A9 ♣AQJ987
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 ♥ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Hunt on for who leaked Charles' private comments

LONDON (R) — Who told the New York Times that Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, would really rather be a pop star Bob Geldof?

A hunt for the source of this and other intimate indiscretions began Monday after the Times published a long profile of the prince in its Sunday edition to mark his approaching 40th birthday.

The report, written by the paper's London bureau chief Howell Raines, appeared to be based partly on remarks Charles is said to have made last year at a private lunch for selected Fleet Street editors. The affair was to discuss negative publicity surrounding his public activities and his family.

Apart from the Geldof revelation, the article portrayed the prince as a man frustrated in his search for a constructive role in British society and said a "sullen peace" had settled over his marriage to the 26-year-old Princess of Wales.

Raines quoted one editor as saying: "He (the prince) is going to have either a public function or have a breakdown."

As controversy grew, Raines told reporters that he stood by every word of the story but had no intention of discussing the source or how he got the informa-

tion. Buckingham Palace wasn't talking either and a spokesman said that "we would assume that a private lunch would not lead to direct quotations."

The London Evening Standard commented that since only four men attended the function, the field of possible suspects appeared to be narrow.

The prince's guests were Charles Wilson, editor of the Times of London, Peregrine Worsthorne, editor of the Sunday Telegraph, Rupert Pennant-Rea, editor of the weekly Economist and Ron Neil, BBC television's deputy director of news and current affairs.

Three denied responsibility or refused to comment. Wilson said in a statement that he had never heard the offending words being uttered. Pennant-Rea told inquirers that the lunch was off the record and that he had never met Raines. The BBC said on Neil's behalf that he had nothing to say.

Worsthorne wrote an article about the lunch for the London weekly Spectator last December and the Standard quoted him as saying that it might have been the basis for the Times report.

He denied having given Raines the quotes which the Times used and added: "I don't know where they came from."